CIRCULATION LAST WEEK
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Poetry.

THE PRODIGAL'S RETURN.

Jest got a letter here from Joe, our boy, that said he'd got
Disgusted livin' on the farm, an' guessed he'd take a trot
Into the busy, rushin' world, an' try to make a name
That in the comin' years 'd be close coupled up with fame.
He'd got a irresistible desire to gather wealth,
An' said that if he helt his grip on his surprisin' health
He'd some day take us all to town to wear store-boughten clothes,
An' with the upper tenners pack an elevated nose.

We tried to turn him from his course with calm, advisin' words,
But might as well have chattered to the little dickie birds.
Fur Joe was sot in all his ways, ap' when he'd fixed a pint
A stroke o' lightning couldn't knock his 'rangements out o' j'int.
An' so we told him he could go, but warned him of the snares
The city allus lays to ketch the stranger unawares.
But he jest laughed our fears away, an' said with bitin' scorn,
The sharper that could do him had neglected to be born.

I drawed a hundred dollars from the pile I had in bank,
An' told him fur to shove it down securely in his flank.
And then he kissed his ma good-by, an' give my hand a grip,
Both of us lightin' an attack of tremblin' of the lip.
At night down on our bended knees we'd speak a word fur Joe,
An' axed the Lord to stay with him wherever he might go.
But not a message did we git from him that went away,
So full o' golden dreams, till this here letter come to-day.

He writes fur me to meet him at the depo down to Rome,
An' bring along the ol' brown coat he used to wear at home,
An' have his mother patch the pants he left a-hangin here
That is sort o' busted at the knees an' shattered in the rear.
He also wants the striped vest he give his brother Pete,
An' I must fetch a pa'r o' shoes—he's in his naked feet—
An' take along some underclothes an' socks, an' sich as that,
Likewise his ol' blue woolen shirt; he says he's got a hat.—Denver Post.

AN EPITAPH.

Here do I lie—in faith!
Not that God's purposes were dear to me;
Not that I read old books, and said, "I yet!"
Curst be the fool whose eyes are holden
But that I justified within my soul
The Will that moved the worlds. It guides the whole?
Let it this part remember or forget!

Here do I lie—in hope!
Not that I say, "I kept my foot from sin;"
Not that I think or wish to enter in
Where aureoled saints with new-born children rest;
But that no fellow man can say of me,
"I fell, and it was pleasing unto thee;
Thine eyes beheld despair, and acquiesced."

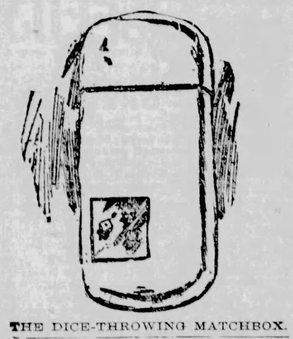
Here do I lie—and sleep!
Sleep was the gift filched at my birth from me,
But I inherit it eternally;
I close my hand on it, and now shall keep
Embrace of the flesh awakened "me;"
Stripped of the flesh once more—and willingly—
In the embraces of the gods I sleep!
—London Academy.

Miscellany.

DICE-THROWING MATCHBOX

"All the Way From London," It Costs a New Owner $13 the First Night.

When Willie H. Fox, the burlesque Paderewski, was in Kansas City a year ago, says the Star, he formed the acquaintance and became so good a friend of a man here that when the man was in London several months ago Fox remembered his friendship and sent him a souvenir. This souvenir is a silver match-



THE DICE-THROWING MATCHBOX.

box, valuable and unique, but it is the unique feature of the box that caused the trouble and cost the receiver $13 on the first day he had the matchbox.

Close up to one end of the box is a little glass covered compartment about one-half inch square. In it are three tiny dice—so small that the dots are not much larger than pin-points. Every time the man took the box from his pocket the dice rattled and reminded him of their presence. He met a friend in a hotel and showed it proudly.

"I'll just shake you one flop for a dollar," said he, just to be game. For the same reason the friend accepted.

The owner lost his dollar and tried it again. When he had lost $4 he stopped, but he took out the box some time later to light a cigar, the dice rattled again and he was reminded to try for a restitution of his losings. To friend after friend he showed the wonderful present—"all the way from London"—and when he put it back in his pocket for the last time his losings were $13. He doesn't carry the box now.

With all its temptation and unreliability this is the only box of its kind in the United States and probably in the world. It was discovered by Mr. Fox in an old shop on a London side street and the dealer who sold it said it had come into the shop so long ago that he could not remember its purchase and it was the only one of its kind he had ever seen.

Out of Their Element There.

Mrs. Snaggs—Isn't it odd that fortune tellers are not able to predict and avoid dangers which threaten them?

Mr. Snaggs—Not at all. As I understand it, they do not pretend to be misfortune tellers.—Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph.

When Faith Doesn't Work.

"We broke that divine healer all up."

"How so?"

"Ran across him using his repair kit on his bicycle."—Chicago Record.

THROUGH THE AIR TO A CASTLE.

I recently made a visit to the village of Kalambaka—which formed practically the starting point of the late Graeco-Turkish war, says a writer in the London Graphic. It lies nestled among the wilderness of rocks and stones which lie at the feet of Meteora, the most wonderful cliffs in the world. The summits of

LETTING DOWN A SWINGING LADDER.

these vast rock pinnacles have been adorned by buildings which are eminently in keeping with their fantastic foundations, and by moonlight, as I first saw them, the scene was quite unreal and fairylike. Surely Dore must have come to the monasteries of Meteora to gain his inspirations for those romantic castles in the air which adorn the backgrounds of so many of his pictures. The walls have, as it were, been pinched and wedged into the crannies and irregularities of the rocks, and they bulge and bend with the contour of the platform which supports them, while a host of little roofs and gables surmount the tottering pile, some steeply pitched, some flat.

The cliffs are far too smooth and perpendicular for any man to climb by hand and foot, and history guards jealously the secret of the monasteries. All that is known about them is that the monks and wandering friars of the middle ages found sanctuary here when first the crescent and scimetar ran red with Christian blood. The monastery of St. Stephano is the largest of the seven blocks which now remain of twenty of the rarest monuments of human ingenuity. They are absolutely devoid of access save by the net and rope or a swinging ladder. Visitors to the monks' abode announce their presence by shouting until someone far above looks out and lets the net, which is worked by a windlass, come down.

The sensation of the ascent I found on visiting St. Stephano myself was distinctly novel. Seated on the ground in the center of the net, the meshes were one by one looped on to a large iron hood. As the rope became taut, the cords pressed uncomfortably hard upon various points of one's body, and as there was a strong wind blowing, it swung to and fro and bumped its human appendage against the cliff. The rope, as slowly wound on the drum up in the monastery, kinked occasionally, and the jerk gave one the impression that the rickety concern was giving way. The journey through the air ended safely, however, on a platform 170 feet above the ground, and the monks promptly extricated their visitor from the entagling mesh. The place was distinctly dark and draughty, and there were many winding passages and steps to stumble over before the room was reached in which the abbot sat and waited the arrival of his visitor. His delicately cut features, his gentle voice and stately bearing, were only what one would expect of a man whose life had been spent in a place so far above the world, amid such lofty surroundings. A young monk, with bare feet, entered the room noiselessly and handed around small cups of Turkish coffee and a cigarette, and, seated with these beside one on the divan beneath the window, one could enjoy to the full the glorious view of the plain spread out like a map below, with the gleaming snow peaks of the Pindos mountains in the distance. Then followed a long ram-

MONKS LETTING A VISITOR DOWN FROM ST. STEPHANO.

ble through the wainscoted dormitories of the monks—the rock floored refectory, the richly decorated chapel, and the little graveyard which sloped away from it down to the very edge of the precipice. It was with many a pleasant recollection of the monks of Meteora that we finally bade them good-by ere they pushed us from their landing stage and launched us once more into space.

RECENT TRADE WITH SPAIN

Oregon children naturally keep track of commercial and international affairs, for their state has an extensive seaboard and intimate relations with the wheat markets of the world.

A class in geography was reciting in one of the rooms of the Central schoolhouse yesterday when the matter of the interchange of commerce and natural products came up for discussion and review. After referring to other countries and explaining what kind of articles were shipped to Germany, France, and England, the teacher put to the class this question:

"What do we send to Spain?"

A number of little hands went up all over the room, indicating a readiness and desire to answer and the teacher told a bright-looking little girl at the further end of the room that she might tell, and she said:

"We send soldiers to Spain."

"Yes, that is true," said the teacher, "but can you tell what we receive in return?"

"We get islands," came the answer promptly from the same little girl.—Portland Oregonian.

PARIS TO EAT OUR CORN.

The old world is to be given a good idea at the Paris exhibition of what American corn is. A corn palace will be built showing a tremendous ear of corn rising tower fashion from its front, and

OUR CORN PALACE AT PARIS.

in this palace it is proposed to have a corn kitchen and restaurant, in which corn bread, corn pudding, corn fritters, corn dodgers, johnny cake, succotash and all other forms of this vegetable will be served.

Women's Ways.

Ike—Women is funny things.

Zeke—I allow they air. I bet that among them women who has been runnin' in gangs to kiss Hobson they's any number of 'em that's fightin' this here Utah Congressman with three wives.—Indianapolis Journal.

Her Value.

Mrs. Tracy—You would not part with your little wifey for all the money in the world, would you, my dear?

Tracy—Not much! Money talks, but there is not enough of it in the world to take your place.—Truth.

His Opinion.

"Do I understand," asked Admiral Cervera, becoming interested, "that the new battleship Ohio is to be a better ship than the Oregon?"

"That's what the builders claim."

"Well," rejoined the admiral, thrusting his finger and thumb into his vest pocket, "I've got a peseta or two left that says it won't."—Chicago Tribune.

TWENTY TERRIBLE DAYS

MRS. HENRY H. M'DONALD AND HER THREE CHILDREN.

The Ship Starbuck Burned at Sea, and the People On Board Had to Take to the Boats.

I can hardly think of it now without a shudder, those twenty terrible days adrift at sea with my three little children, says Mrs. McDonald in the New York Journal.

Every day of that time seemed to be a living death, with new tortures for each hour. Added to the constant fear of drowning was the torture of thirst, the chill of night and the scorching heat of a tropical sun by day.

Then after all came the haunting fear that I should lose my reason, and in my madness cast my own babies into the mouths of sharks.

My husband is a sea captain, and I had gone from Hoboken, New Jersey, to Fort Blakeley, state of Washington, to join him on what promised to be a most delightful voyage.

He had a splendid ship, the Starbuck, and she was loaded with a cargo of lumber for Delagoa Bay, South Africa. We started from Puget Sound on October 17, and the children and I were as comfortable as on an Atlantic liner.

But at 10 o'clock on the night of November 5 the cry of "Fire!" was started by the forward lookout. Flames were shooting up from the forepeak. The cargo of lumber was afire.

My husband and his crew fought the fire with desperation, but it kept breaking out afresh on every side. In four hours the big ship was ablaze from stem to stern.

My husband then ordered the three boats to be made ready. They were loaded with provisions and casks of water. I and the children and my husband were in the largest of the boats, but it was also the frailest.

When the order came to lower away I gathered my children in my arms and felt that we were being dropped down to death. We pushed out into the black night and watched our ship burn down to the water's edge.

There were two other boats with us. One was in charge of the first mate, Charles M'Donald, my husband's cousin, and the other in command of Second Mate Howard. A line was passed from one boat to the other to keep them all together.

The fourth day out the second mate cut his boat loose in hopes of getting on better alone. We never saw him after that and he was probably lost.

On the twelfth day the first mate's boat capsized and the cook was drowned. The rest of the men we took in our boat, making fifteen in all, which crowded us so that we could scarcely move. We had to throw overboard everything but the clothing we wore and our canned food and water cask.

Then our real sufferings began. Before that we had had a pint of water a day apiece; now our allowance was cut down to half a pint.

My children and I were huddled together toward the stern of the boat. The ship's carpenter had rigged up a little awning of blankets to shield us from the hot sun by day. But the waves would wash over us, and at night squalls came up, soaking everything.

I could have endured this well enough, but it was hard on the poor little darlings. You see, my boy Howard is but seven years old, my little girl, Maud, five years, while my baby, Gladys, is only nineteen months.

We were all so seasick with the rolling of the little boat! My son seemed to be exhausted by the deathly feeling, and

MRS. M'DONALD AND HER CHILDREN SAILED 2,000 MILES IN AN OPEN BOAT.

plodded until his patience was exhausted:

"Corporal of der guard!" he roared.

No attention was paid to him and he called again. Then the corporal approached him.

"Dake my gun," he said, "and watch dees vaggin a leetle vile. I want to go und speak mit der colonel."

The corporal demurred, but the German insisted, and finally the good-natured "non-commish" took his place.

Up to the colonel's tent the German hastened. The colonel was there. The private saluted.

"Colonel," he abruptly inquired, "vat's dot vaggin of ammynition down by der end of der camp worth?"

The colonel knew the German intimately. In fact, Louis, as everybody called him, was a general favorite, and highly regarded by all who knew the story of his personal sacrifice.

"What's it worth?" repeated the smiling officer.

"Yes, vot's it worth? Is it worth five hoondred dollars?"

"More than that, I guess," said the colonel.

"Is it worth a thousand dollars?"

"Yes," said the colonel, "I should say its value was just about that amount."

"Don," said the German, "I'll gif you my check for a tousand dollars, und you let me go back to mein tent und go to bed."

The colonel gasped at this astonishing offer, then he roared.

The German had to go back to his guard duty, but the colonel soon relieved him.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Wanted Fire Fuel.

The colored parson was preaching about the fire and brimstone reserved for sinners hereafter. It was an extremely cold day, and as he pictured the hardness of that region one of the shivering members of his congregation arose and made for the door.

"Brer Williams," the parson shouted, "whar is you gwine, sah?"

"I mighty hard up," Brer Williams answered, "en I gwine ter h—l ter save coal!"—Atlanta Constitution.

But Still a Bird.

"I wouldn't call the doctor a quack."

"Why wouldn't you?"

"It suggests a duck, and there are lots of birds with bigger bills than that."—Cleveland Leader.

$1,000 FOR A NIGHT'S SLEEP.

A returned Cleveland volunteer tells a good story of a comrade, a wealthy German from Wisconsin, who in a fine spirit of patriotism had enlisted as a private soldier. He proved a good one, but the exacting duties of camp life soon grew irksome. One night he was detailed to stand guard over an ammunition wagon. It was a chilly night and the rain was falling. To and fro he faded away day by day, till I was nearly distracted. Maud was not so sick, and her cheerful, hopeful little face was my greatest comfort. I was thankful that my baby in my arms was too young to know the horror of it all.

As our water supply got lower and lower every one of us felt the parching fever coming on. It raged like fire through our veins by day, and at night kept us from sleep.

How I prayed for them—for all of us! But worse times were to come. The storms set in. Squalls burst upon us and heavy gales rocked our little boat, and the angry seas poured into the little craft, wetting the blankets and all our clothing, but through it all I had one consolation—my boy was getting better. The crisis had passed and he was saved.

Then the gales became more frequent, and I felt sure we could not reach land in that leaky old boat. The allowance of water was down still lower. We had plenty of hard bread and canned fruits and meats. I partook of nothing but the fruit. The short allowance of water made the situation serious, but the men behaved like heroes. They never made a complaint, and took their turns bailing out the boat. But often when I had just tucked the children in their blankets a sea would almost fill the boat and leave us wetter than ever.

At length we saw land. It was the twentieth day. My husband had promised to the man who first saw the shore a big glass of water. He himself won the reward.

The land we had made was Hookena, and next day at noon we were ashore. The natives came outside the reef, and we were put into one of their boats and taken ashore. I staggered like a drunken man. My limbs refused to support me. I fell on my knees on the sandy beach, with my little ones about me, and again thanked the All-Seeing One for our deliverance.

We took passage from Honolulu to San Francisco, where I am writing this. Soon I expect we shall be on our way to our home in the East.

Wonders of Science.

Yes, little girl, this telescope brings the planet Jupiter so near you can see its moons."

"Do the moons come along with it? How funny."—Chicago Tribune.

Our New Serial Story.

PUBLISHED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

THE DAY OF TEMPTATION.

A STORY OF TWO CITIES.

BY WILLIAM LE QUEUX.

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CHAPTER XXIX.—ENTRAPPED.

As all drew back aghast and terrified from the little face of carved stone, Gemma, who had tried the door only to discover the truth of Tristram's appalling assertion, dashed instantly back to the table, and, regardless of the imminent risk she ran, took the small image in her hands.

"No! No!" they cried with one voice, haunted by the fear that any second it might explode and blow them out of all recognition. "Don't touch it! Don't touch it!"

"On the night when the two men completed their hellish invention I watched through the shutters unseen," she cried. "I saw Nenci explain how this deadly thing was charged, and the mode in which it was set. See!" In an instant all had grouped round her, as turning the bust upside down, she eagerly examined it beneath the shaded lamp. The scratch running across the mainchite base and up the outer edge of the removable portion was, she saw, contiguous to a mark higher up. Nenci had turned the circular base until the ends of the almost imperceptible line had joined!

Another instant and nothing could save them.

With trembling hands Gemma grasped it as Nenci had done on the night when she had watched, and with a quick wrench tried to turn it back.

It would not move!

Next second, however, she twisted it in the opposite direction. As she did so there was a harsh grating sound as of steel cutting into stone, a crack, as though some strong spring had snapped, and then all knew that the mechanism of the devilish invention had been disordered, and that the frightful catastrophe was thereby averted.

She bent down, opening Nenci's bag, and took therefrom a second bust, exclaiming:

"He tricked us cleverly. Fortunately, however, I detected the difference in the markings of that green stone, or ere this we might each one of us have been dead." Then, placing the two busts side by side, she pointed out the difference in the vein of the malachite, which had attracted her attention, and thus caused her to make the astounding declaration which had held them petrified.

"You've saved us!" the Gobbo cried, addressing her.

"These men must not escape," Gemma cried, determinedly. "They shall not. Our lives have been endangered by their villainous treachery, and they shall not evade punishment."

CHAPTER XXX.—"I BEAR WITNESS!"

Next morning, Gemma stood at the window of her bedroom, looking down upon Northumberland avenue. She had breakfasted unusually early, and had chosen a dark green dress trimmed with narrow astrachan—one of her Paris-made gowns which she knew fitted her perfectly and suited her complexion.

The recollection of the previous night was in the light of morning horrifying. After leaving Sussex Square she had stopped her cab at the telegraph office opposite Charing Cross Station, the office being open day and night, and had sent a long and urgent message to Rome, explaining the situation. Already a reply reposed in the pocket of her gown, but it was unsatisfactory. The private secretary had wired back that the Marquis was away at his high-up antique castle of Montelupo. She, therefore, knew that many hours must elapse ere her cypher message was delivered to him. Even his reply could not reach her for four hours or so, after it had been despatched from Empoli. But after sending the message to Rome she had also sent one to Armytage at Aldworth Court, and was now awaiting his arrival.

Her hands were cold and nervous, her eyes heavy and weary, and her face deathly pale and haggard, for she had slept but little that night. She saw plainly now that all her desperate efforts to free herself had been in vain. There had been a hitch somewhere, or that night the whole of that assembly at Lady Marshfield's would have been arrested by detectives from Scotland Yard, at the instigation of Count Castellani, acting under telegraphic orders from Rome. Italy would thus have been able to rid herself of as desperate a gang of malefactors as ever stood in the dock of a criminal court. She had kept faith with the Marquis Montelupo, her master, and in order to gain her freedom, had furnished the ministry with full details of the plot. Her freedom of action had been promised her in exchange for this information, but with the stipulation that the conspirators must be arrested. The Marquis, cunning, and far-seeing, was well aware that this would ensure greater secrecy, and hold her as his agent until the very end.

No arrest had, however, taken place. All her plans had failed utterly, and in a paroxysm of despair she told herself that she was still, even at that moment, tracked by

had misappropriated the greater part of the funds of the league, resolved to travel to London and denounce them. This she did, being accompanied thereby Captain Tristram, who had been induced to join us by Lady Marshfield, and, I suppose, with some vague hope that the knowledge thus acquired might be of some service to the British foreign office. Vittorina and myself had taken the oath at the meeting of the league, and had on that night received from Nenci, the leader, rings of exactly similar pattern—"marriage rings" he laughingly termed them. Well, you are aware of the scoundrel's devilish ingenuity. It was he who had made those rings so that by a mere pressure of his hand upon her ring the poison was injected, and the girl's life taken. You know how cleverly circumstantial evidence was fastened upon your friend. From recent inquiries, I have discovered that Vittorina's relations on her mother's side were English, and had a villa up at Como, and that Major Maitland, having a couple of years before appropriated a large sum of money belonging to her, was no doubt necessary to her death, for he has never been heard of since the night of the crime. Remember that his photograph was found among her possessions, and that he was no doubt awaiting the arrival that night at Charing Cross."

"There seems to be little doubt, from the fact that Nenci gave you a similar ring, that he intended you should share the same fate as Vittorina," her husband observed, marvelling at her story.

"Certainly he did," she answered. "Time after time I strove to free myself, from the fetters ever galling me and driving me to desperation, but Montelupo was always inexorable. He loved Vittorina, I afterwards discovered, for it was he who had written that mysterious letter siged 'Egisto,' and he was determined to avenge her murder. Like ourselves he was utterly unaware of the identity of the assassin. Now, however, that you have supplied the information wanting and the culprit has paid the penalty; now that Mulvano, the man who so cleverly acted as secret agent of the embassy in London, while the same moment he was plotting against the state, and his cunning companion, Romanelli, have been arrested, tried at Rome, and will spend the remainder of their lives in imprisonment on Elba, my master has given me my freedom. I am free to love you, Nino."

"But, the little marble image?" he said. "Why was the deadly thing so ingeniously contrived?"

"In order to strike a blow that was intended to paralyze the monarchy and cause a revolution in Italy," she answered quickly. "In the blue bourdoir in the Quirinal, on a sideboard behind the queen's private writing desk, there stands a tiny, but exactly similar bust, and in collusion with some of the royal servants it was proposed to exchange this image for the one invented by Nenci and Mulvano, so that when his majesty joined the queen one night after dinner, both would be blown into eternity."

"Then by your efforts and by the imminent risks you ran among that desperate gang, you averted the terrible catastrophe—you, indeed, saved Italy."

"I suppose I did," she said. "At that time political feeling ran high, and such a blow at the monarchy would have undoubtedly given the republicans and anarchists the upper hand. But I do not now regret," she added, a look of supreme happiness lighting up her beautiful countenance, "I do not regret, Nino, because I have secured your true, honest love."

"I believe in your honesty, darling, for I know how terribly you have suffered," he exclaimed, drawing her closer to him, until her head fell upon his shoulder. "Those who now seek to besmirch your good name shall answer to me."

Their hands clasped, their eyes exchanged a love-look long, deep and intense. Then her eager lips met his in one fierce passionate kiss.

"The years of my bondage are like some half-remembered hideous nightmare, Nino," she murmured, and gazing full in his eyes. "But it is all finished; for you, my husband, true, patient, and forbearing, placed in my hand a weapon against my enemies; you brought back to me a renewed desire for life and its pleasures, and you gave me deliverance from the evil that encompassed me. Truly a perfect peace is ours, for the dark Day of Temptation has waned, and has given place to a bright and blissful dawn."

THE END.

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers would be free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest, and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, nor concerning prices of coins. 6.—No answers by mail.

"Old Abe" Again.

"The history of Old Abe, the war eagle, given by W. E. V., of Bloomdale, Ohio, does not give the early history of the bird, which is as follows: He was captured in Chippewa Co., Wis., by a Chippewa Indian, when very young, and became a pet of the young Indian children. A farmer in the settlement bought him for a bushel of corn. At that time a company of the Eighth Wisconsin regiment was being raised at Eau Claire, and the farmer presented him to the company as a recruit, and he was duly mustered into the United States service as a member of that company. He went through all the hardships of war for three years, never shirked his duty, never went to the hospital, came home with the regiment, was mustered out with great honors, and was given a permanent home at Madison. At the next session of the legislature there was a special act passed granting him a pension of two chickens a day during his life, which act was strictly carried out while the eagle lived. On dying he was stuffed and placed in the historical department of the state. It is said that he quickly learned all the commands and would obey them as readily as a soldier. For instance, when the command for the men to lie down, he would leave his perch, drop to the ground and flatten himself out like a mud turtle."—C. E. B., Omro, Wis.

Acoustic Telephones.

R. C. M., Kirksville, Mo., sends the following directions for making an acoustic telephone:

"I have seen this worked successfully on a line a half mile in length. The wire to be used is the size of common broom wire, two twisted together, as a single wire will not work. The wire is real cable. Hang it on poles or other objects with pieces of the same wire, two feet or more in length. Set the poles zig-zag, so when the wire is strained it will stand out from the poles one foot or more. The wire must not touch any objects other than at the poles and drums at ends.

"The drums should be three inches deep and five inches wide, square or round, with the head tacked on one end. Toy drum heads will do; banjo heads are better. Make a button one inch in diameter one half inch thick and fasten to center of head, on outside, with a screw-eye (in inside, fasten a piece of wire to the screw eye; bore hole in wall; pass wire through fasten drum over hole; connect with main line. Be careful that the wire does not touch the wall in passing through hole to drum. Draw the wire moderately taut and your phone is complete. To call your neighbor tap on the button with a pencil or other small object, which will be heard in all parts of the room at other end."

"Delimitation."

"What is the meaning of the word 'delimitation,' as seen in The Bluffton Dec 22, in the article headed 'The Czar's Peace Plan'? I find many such words in the papers that I can not find in the dictionary. How is it? I supposed that all words would be in Webster?"—J. S. Edwards Wash.

The word delimitation means a fixing or defining of boundaries. The delimitation of the world would be a parceling out of all barbarous lands among civilized nations, and agreeing upon boundaries. New words are coming into the language all the time, and the newer dictionaries have many more thousand words than has Webster.

The British Empire.

"Of what does England and its empire consist at the present time?"—Ignorance Watervliet, Mich.

The island of Great Britain embraces England, Scotland and Wales; and with Ireland, forms the United Kingdom Great Britain and Ireland. Besides these the British empire comprises possessions in all parts of the world. On this continent it has all north of the United States except Alaska; British Guiana, British Honduras, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago Barbadoes, the Bahamas and the Bermudas. Then comes all of Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, New Guinea and the Fiji islands. In Asia all India, Ceylon Cyprus, Aden, Socotra, Straits Settlements Hong Kong, Labuan and British North Borneo. In Africa an enormous area in Southern, Eastern and Central Africa, including the Soudan, and a protectorate over Egypt. The total area of the British empire is over 11,000,000 square miles while the United States has but 3,602,990 square miles. The population of the British empire is $81,000,000 while ours is about 75,000,000.

The Four Gospels.

"I heard a minister of the Gospel say from the pulpit that the first four books of the New Testament were not written by inspired men; that they simply wrote as they saw, and not by inspiration. Is this correct?"—Subscriber Kasson, Iowa.

That is simply a matter of opinion. It is nowhere taught that the writers are infallible as they would be were they inspired. The trend of the best opinion at the present day is along the line of thought of the ministers you quote. We express no opinion on the matter.

End of 19th Century.

"In arguing I claim that the nineteenth century ends at midnight on December 31, 1900. My opponents say it ends December 31, 1899. Am I not right? Please explain."—U. O. T., Ursa, Ill.

Of course you are right. It takes 100 full years to make a century. It takes 1900 full years to make 19 centuries. The twentieth century begins on January 1, 1901.

Imitation Maple Syrup.

"W. R. H., Bissell, Pa., asks how to make a good imitation of maple syrup in answer I give the following:

"Take the rough scale bark of hickory and make a tea of it; then strain it and use brown sugar to make a sugar syrup. It tastes very much like maple syrup."—U. O. T., Ursa, Ill.

We presume the white inner bark of the shellbark hickory is meant. Will some one try it and report to the Bureau?

1900 Not a Leap Year.

"In your issue of January 12 you say that the next leap year will be 1904. Why is not 1900 a leap year? I thought that every year that would divide by 4 without a remainder was a leap year."—W. D. W., Waterloo, Kan.

No, you have only half the rule. Every common year exactly divisible by 4 is a leap year; but of the centurial years, such as 1700, 1800, 1900 etc., only those are leap years which are exactly divisible by 400.

Tramp Steamers.

"What is meant by a tramp steamer? In a description of the Merrimac it says she had previously been a tramp steamer."—J. W.

A tramp steamer is one which is not on any regular route, but takes freight for any port. For instance, if she brings a cargo of wine from France to New York she seeks a cargo here and may go to South America with machinery, or to Liverpool with wheat, or to any other port for which she can get a load.

President's Cabinet.

"Must members of the President's cabinet be natural born citizens? I presume they must be since the enactment of the presidential succession law."—G. S. R., Pratt, Kan.

No, the law does not require it. But it provides, in case any member of the cabinet has not the constitutional qualifications for the Presidency, in case he is the one to succeed thereto, he shall not be eligible, but it passes to the next in order.

Hello.

"Will you please pronounce the word 'hello?"—S. C., Lucile, Pa.

It is pronounced He-lo-ee-lo, accent on the "ee" each time.

Farming in Hawaii.

"Is farming in the Hawaii islands profitable? What is the price of land? Where can full information on the subject be obtained?"—W. D. B., Neenah, Wis.

Farming, as we have it here, does not exist in Hawaii. The products are sugar, rice, wool, fruit and bananas. The most profitable crop is sugar, but all the good sugar lands belong to the great Spreckels firm. On the mountain slopes sheep are raised for wool. Land is said to be high. The only way to get accurate information is to write to some friend in the islands.

States and Territories.

"How many states and territories in the United States or in their possession? Give name of each territory and names of last two states admitted into the Union."—H. S. S., Cambridge City, Ind.

There are 45 states; three organized territories—Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma; two unorganized territories—the Indian and Alaska; one district—the District of Columbia; besides Hawaii Porto Rico and the Philippines whose form of government is yet to be fixed by laws passed by Congress, and which are now simply colonies. The last two states admitted into the Union are Wyoming and Utah.

The President's Expenses.

"Does the President of the United States get any of his expenses paid?"—L. S., White Cloud, Ind.

The White House is the residence of the President, as well as his office. The President pays no rent of course, and the building is lighted, heated and the official rooms kept furnished at government expense. The government of course pays the expenses of the clerks in the executive department, but the President pays the expenses of himself and family, of course.

Chilblain Cures.

In reply to a request from D. W. B., Hewins, Kan., for a chilblain cure, we have received many replies. We print all received up to date, but will not publish any others, as certainly these afford an ample choice:

A lump of butter as large as a nut; work into it all the salt possible, then anoint well, heating it in.—W. P., Vermontville, Mich.

Put 1 oz. camphor gum in a bowl, add 1 oz. nitric acid and dissolve; then put the regimen, was in 1 lb. lard melted; stir till cold. Apply freely.—F. A. J., Yates Center, Kan.

Dissolve ½ oz. oil origanum and ½ oz oil rosemary in ¼ pint alcohol add 1 oz spirits camphor and the same of turpentine. Bathe affected part once a day.—P. N. C., Cutting, N. Y.

Apply balsam copaiva on surgeon's lint to the affected part, and leave until it comes off.—J. S. H., Napoleon, O.

Make a plaster of balsam fir, and apply.—H. D. S., Madison, Wis.

Mix ½ oz. each of oil of wormwood, oil of spike, oil origanum and venice turpentine; apply once a day with a feather.—W. D., Sharonville, Mich.

Burn lard until black, and apply.—C. S., Hebron, Ind.

Break an egg into a bottle, fill the shell with turpentine, apple vinegar and ammonia, once with each; add to the egg; shake up; let stand 12 hours before using; shake before applying; keep well corked. Don't use if the skin is broken.—E. R., Brandon, Wis.

Turpentine and whisky equal parts; add a lump of camphor gum, and as much castile soap, shaved fine; dissolve; shake often, and apply to the feet.—N. E. R., Assumption, Ill.

Soak the feet in one gallon of water as hot as can be borne in which 1 pound of alum has been dissolved.—M. O. jr., Assumption, Ill.

Of rosin beeswax and tallow 2 ozs each; spirits turpentine and oil of spike 1 oz. each; ½ oz. camphor; melt together in a close tin; apply daily.—J. M. S., New Mill, Mo.

Dissolve beeswax in turpentine and apply before retiring.—B. K., Miami, Ind.

One pint spirits of turpentine, 1 oz camphor, 1 oz. corrosive sublimate; mix and shake several times daily for several days. Apply to the feet. This is a deadly poison and must be used with care.—S. S., New Hartford, Ill.

Slice fat pork very thin, place in saucer and soak in coal oil, bind a piece on the affected part every night.—D. H., Turtle Creek, Ind.

Make an ointment of fresh lard and tar, down from mid-fall flags, and bind on the spot.—L. M. V., Augusta, Wis.

Put a heaping teaspoonful of cayenne pepper in each sock, which should be woolen and wear them night and day until cured.—H. H., Hamilton, Mich.

Soak the feet in water as hot as can be borne; then bind cloths dampened with oil on the sore places.—X., Blue Rock, O.

Several of these recipes were duplicate by other parties.

Nicaragua Canal.

A. C. S., Fredericktown, O.: On the 41st page of this paper you will find a map of the proposed line of the Nicaragua Canal. On page 8 among the Washington news you will find the provisions of the bill which has just passed the Senate and now goes to the House. The route is not fully decided nor the other measurements of the canal.

Rush of Questions.

Be patient friends. We are getting each week more queries than we can take room to answer. We have bag batch waiting including a lot on the everlasting silver question. As soon as we have room, we will answer them.

Miscellaneous.

F. T. M., Carson City, Colo.: Yes.

J. T., Domestic, Ind.: Sorry to say we have none.

L. R., Belvidere, Neb.: We have no means of finding out.

M. F., Milroy, O.: Sorry to say we have lost track of the poem.

J. T. C., Santa Cruz, Cal.: Unfortunately we do not know where to find it.

E. L. C., McKinney, Ala.: We don't know. Write to a dealer in old coins.

N. P. J., Clear Lake, Minn.: We never saw the article, and hence can not say.

H. G. J., Lakeview, Mich.: The governor of Alaska is Hon. John G. Brady.

J. F. R., Milton Center, O.: Ask a lawyer. Questions of law are barred. See Rules above.

H. B. S., San Diego, asks how to cure sea kelp so as to be flexible and soft when dry. Who can tell us?

J. S. S., Columbus, Kan.: The item for the civil service bureau was put back in the bill before it was passed.

S., Springfield, o.: At present the sender is required to pay the stamp on telegrams and express packages.

B. S. A., Mercer, Pa.: No, please don't. We have bushels of poetry sent us all the time, and it is a burden to send it back.

W. E. H., Corry, Pa., asks the date of the fall of dust with snow. Who can tell? We do not recall it, but it is not uncommon.

E. C. H., Chequest, Iowa: We are not in favor of a civil pension list, as you will see by the article on the subject a short time ago.

W. R. R., Portville, Ind.: It is impossible to give such a list, for the actual religious beliefs of many of them are not known.

L. D. C., South Lyon, Mich.: The silver dollar is worth only the price of the bullion in it in any country except the United States.

M. E., Mt. Olive, Ill.: There are no national holidays. All holidays are created by state legislatures. Congress has never passed a law creating one.

P. H. W., Linn, W. Va.: The only states in which the death penalty is forbidden by law are Colorado, Rhode Island, Maine, Michigan and Wisconsin.

W. H. K.: The bill for the census of 1900 is in the House. See article on 4th page this issue. Until the bill is passed, your question can not be answered.

J. B., Tiffin, O.: June 14 is Flag day, because the American flag was adopted by Congress on June 14, 1777. It is not, however, a legal holiday in any state.

I. A. W., Mineral Springs, Mo.: Look each week in the New York Clipper which gives the routes ahead of the circuses, and send your letter accordingly.

C. W. W., Hedrick, Ind.: There are several small papers published in Havana. The only one we know is the Times of Cuba.

F. L. P., Riley, Kan.: Ask the preacher to give the date. The story, on its face, is absurdly improbable. We never heard it before.

E. G., Bradner, O.: It is very easy, by astronomical calculation, to find the exact phase of the moon on any date, either of the past or future. It takes a practical astronomer to do it however.

W. H. P., Central Station, W. Va.: We know nothing of the laws of West Virginia regarding the appointment of notaries public. Ask some lawyer there.

E. C., Ames, W. Va.: Words like grass, sugar, oil, etc., have plurals when different kinds are referred to. Thus: "There are many different grasses native to the United States."

C. H. R., Conover, N. C.: You are mistaken. If you employ an agent to buy something for you you instruct him what to buy. Judas did not tell the priests to buy the potter's field. Hence we are correct in what we said.

D. A. T., Cowden, Ark.: There is no pension of any kind paid to soldiers by the state of Ohio. Bounties of several amounts were paid at different times to men who enlisted in Ohio for the civil war. Better put such a case in the hands of a pension attorney.

W. R. B., Arizona, Neb.: To impeach is to formally accuse of certain things. President Johnson was so accused, but he was impeached. But he was found not guilty. It is like a man being indicted for a crime, but the jury finding him not guilty.

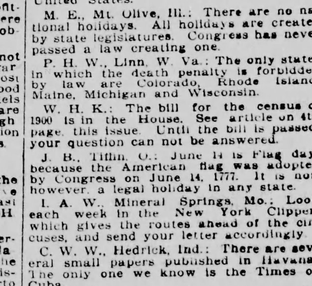
B. F. H., Primrose, Ky.: The finest and most valuable pearls are produced by a variety of oyster, which grows only in the ocean in the tropics. Pearls are found in mussels in some localities. Near Knoxville, Tenn. they are found in the river. Pearl-hunting among mussels is like hunting a needle in a haystack, however.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The genuine has L. B. Q. on each tablet.

IT IS NOT HIDE ITS HEAD.

Probably nine people out of ten believe the ostrich lays its eggs in the sand and leaves them there to hatch in the heat of the sun. The same deluded individuals probably believe that when the ostrich is trying to escape detection it hides its



TO ESCAPE DETECTION.

head in the sand. It doesn't. But it is clever enough to know that crouching low on the earth will not save it so long as its lengthy neck and head is upright, so it does flatten its neck along the ground. This is the foundation of the head-bury-ing story.

"It's an Ill Wind," Etc.

Samuel," said the minister's wife, "if you want me to repair your trousers you'll have to go downtown and get some buttons."

"Never mind, dear," replied the good man, "let them go until next week. I'm going to take up a collection Sunday morning for the benefit of the heathen."—Chicago News.

Was Never Well

But Hood's Sarsaparilla Has Given Her Permanent Health.

"I was a pale, puny, sickly woman, weighing less than 90 pounds. I was never well. I had female troubles and a bad throat trouble. I came across an advertisement of Hood's Sarsaparilla and had faith in the medicine at once. I began taking it and soon felt better. I kept on until I was cured. I now weigh 108 pounds, and never have any sickness. Hood's Sarsaparilla will not cure. My food is pure, complexion good and face free from eruptions." MRS LUNA FARRUM, Box 116, Hillsgrove, Rhode Island.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

Hood's Pills are tasteless, mild, effective. All druggists. 25c.

FITS Can Be Permanently CURED

If you suffer from Epileptic Spasms or Spells, Fits, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus' Dance, etc., have children or relatives that do so, or know people that are afflicted, My New Discovery Epilepticide, will PERMANENTLY cure them, and all you are asked to do is to send for a Free Bottle and try it. It has cured thousands where everything else has failed. My 90 page Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Explained," free. When writing, please give full name, AGE and postoffice and express address. Correspondence professionally confidential.

W. H. MAY, M. D., May Laboratory, 94 Pine Street, New York City.

Recent Literature.

Readers desiring any further information whatever about these volumes will please address the publishers, whose address is given in every case, and not in care of The Blade. We do not deal in books.

A series of essays on the problem of life as he sees it is published under the title of Voices of Hope, and Other Messages from the Hills, by Geo. H. Ellis, of Boston. The author is Horatio W. Dresser, whose Power of Silence and The Perfect World are well known to that part of the public which is interested in these subjects.

The chapters in this volume are made up from lectures delivered in various large cities by Mr. Dresser, and some of them were published in the Journal of Metaphysics, of which he is the editor, and which has lately been merged into The Arena. They are full of joyous hope, of courage, endeavoring to show the way to the heights of happiness and peace.

A volume has been recently issued by the Scribners entitled Rembrandt, which is a sort of semi historic romance, from the pen of Walter Larned concerning the life of the great Dutch painter whose work is the admiration of artists the world over.

Mr. Larned has told the story with simplicity of style and without any attempt at dramatic touches. There is nothing to offend the severest taste even in the history of what is not in accord with social and moral law. Yet the narrative as a romance, pure and simple, would attract little attention to its subject being what has given it more than a passing interest.

Reproductions of several of Rembrandt's most famous pictures add to the value of the volume.

The name of Jonas Lie, the Norwegian novelist, is almost unknown in this country, and, indeed, until within a few years ago had little popularity in his own. At present, however, he is said to be one of the best beloved of the living novelists of his native herland.

A translation of one of his stories, Niobe, has recently come from the publishing house of Geo. H. Richmond & Son of New York. It is a simple picture of the home life of a Norwegian doctor, who finds in the young life of his sons and daughters great cause for anxiety. The recita bears so strong an imprint of truthfulness with real pathos, that the reader cannot doubt that it is a representation of the real life of the Norwegian people.

"South America is one of the lands of the future. The immigration to that country is now rivaling that to North America, and to the overcrowded populations of Europe the south temperate zone is the waiting world."

These words record the judgment of Mr. Hezekiah Butterworth, the author of a volume recently issued by Doubleday & McClure Co., New York, upon South America.

He begins the story proper with the first struggle for liberty against the Spanish dominion in Latin America, and brings it down to the present period.

The pages are full of interesting and thrilling narrative that will be sure to hold the reader's attention. It will be especially attractive to those who realize how more and more closely that country is becoming associated with us politically and commercially.

Dr. Lyman Abbott's advanced thought is nowhere more apparent than in his latest work in which he endeavors to elucidate and emphasize his conception of spiritual evolution. In The Life and Letters of Paul the Apostle he assumes that Paul was not as is usually believed, a teacher with a theology that never changed, but by a careful comparison of his epistles, he shows how his views were altered, that he grew in grace and knowledge as the years passed by, and that the said author has placed him for the period necessary for his recovery. She, however, loves, or thinks she does, a young man who had rescued her from the rocks and a rising tide and the knowledge of this fact finally drives the baronet to his death. What follows the reader must discover for himself. D. Appleton & Co., New York are the publishers.

The Impediment is an old-fashioned love story of the sort that young girls delight in, and which older people will read carelessly for an hour's entertainment. It has a wooden plot, but its sentiment is clean, and wholesome, which is more than better than can be said of a large number of more brilliantly written novels.

A certain baronet falls in love with the daughter of a physician in whose house an accident has placed him for the period necessary for his recovery. She, however, loves, or thinks she does, a young man who had rescued her from the rocks and a rising tide and the knowledge of this fact finally drives the baronet to his death. What follows the reader must discover for himself. D. Appleton & Co., New York are the publishers.

Thy Friend Dorothy is a charming story for girls, written by Amy E. Blanchard. It concerns itself with those days when in old England the Quakers were persecuted and finally driven forth to seek a home across the waters. Dorothy and her mother arouse the ire of Humphrey James, Hester's brother-in-law and Dorothy's uncle, who forbid them both to longer take part with the Quakers, with whom Mrs. James had allied herself.

Dorothy's mother sails for the shores of the New World but Dorothy is detained. After she follows her there and her experiences with her new life and with her lovers make up a most interesting story. It is published by George W. Jacobs & Co., of Philadelphia.

Paul Leicester Ford has written several short stories which Dodd Mead & Co. have brought out under the title of Little-Tales of Cupid. They are somewhat light and airy in character, often humorous, with an occasional touch of pathos. His Version of It is a very prettily conceived little romance told by a horse, who, with his horse friends knew what was going on and took a hand in love affairs.

Another story is A Warning to Lovers in which a young pair plan at love, and are made very uncomfortable by an older and wiser individual, who ends by marrying the girl herself. Others are "Sauce for the Goose Is Sauce for the Gander," The Corelyn Feud, and two plays planned for amateur performance, The Best Laid Plans, and Man Proposes.

Houses of Glass, by Wallace Loyd, is a story of a sensational sort, which has small reason for being. The magnetic power of one human being over another is made the key to the plot. There is some fairly good character drawing, but as a whole the story only goes to make one of a thousand that would be quite as well left unwritten. The object is, of course, as the title indicates, to show that there is a weak side to the nature of the best among people, but no shadow of a lesson is conveyed. Charles W. Dillingham Co., New York.

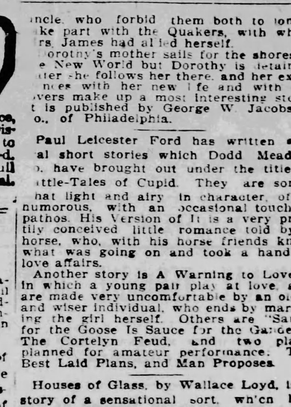
Two volumes have been received from the Century Company which like those that have formed a yearly procession before, are a welcome addition to the library. They are the bound numbers of St. Nicholas, with its wealth of illustrated stories and its poems for the young folks—stories and poems written by those who know full well that the best is none too good for those who will read them. And the boys and girls appreciate the entertainment thus offered them either monthly or in these handsomely bound volumes.

A volume of Historical Tales by Charles Morris has been brought out by J. B. Lippincott company, Philadelphia. These are Spanish stories having to do with the past of Spain, beginning with The Good King Wamba, and touching upon very many of the events that have made history down to the fall of Manila and Santiago. The stories are short and crisply told and are profusely illustrated.

In the series of Little Masterpieces edited by Bliss Perry and published by Doubleday & McClure company comes John Ruskin. The volume is made up of selections from the following productions of this author: The Two Boyhoods, The Slave Ship, The Mountain Gloom, The Mountain Glory, Venice, St. Mark's, Art and Morals, The Mystery of Life and Peace. It is with an introduction by the editor.

BABY'S HARD TASK.

The management of the knife and fork is a stumbling block in the progress of many an occidental youth toward complete culture, but it is really a simple

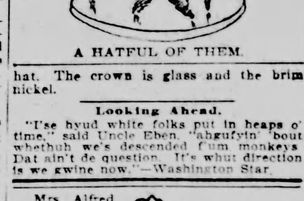


LEARNING TO EAT WITH CHOP STICKS.

matter compared with the art of handling chop-sticks as the Chinese baby must. He learns proficiency at quite an early age, however, practicing on his bowl of rice.

NOVEL CIGAR-HOLDER.

One of the oddities of the season is a cigar-holder made in the shape of a silk



A HATFUL OF THEM.

hat. The crown is glass and the brim nickel.

Looking Ahead.

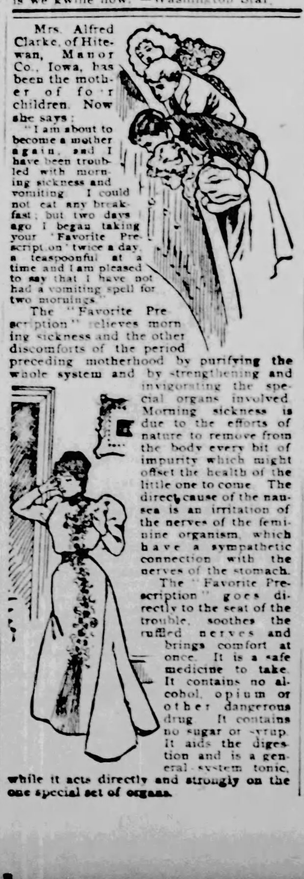
"I've hyud white folks put in heaps o' time," said Uncle Eben, "'bout whethuh we's descended f'om monkeys or Dat ain't de question. It's whut direction is we gwine now."—Washington Star.

Mrs. Alfred Clarke, of Hitewan, Manor Co., Iowa, has been the mother of four children. Now she says:

"I am about to become a mother again, and I have been troubled with morning sickness and vomiting. I could not eat any breakfast; but two days ago I began taking your 'Favorite Prescription' twice a day, a teaspoonful at a time and I am pleased to say that I have not had a vomiting spell for two mornings.

The "Favorite Prescription" relieves morning sickness and the other discomforts of the period preceding motherhood by purifying the whole system and by strengthening and invigorating the special organs involved. Morning sickness is due to the efforts of nature to remove from the body every bit of impurity which might offset the health of the little one to come. The direct cause of the nausea is an irritation of the nerves of the feminine organism, which have a sympathetic connection with the nerves of the stomach.

The "Favorite Prescription" goes directly to the seat of the trouble, soothes the ruffled nerves and brings comfort at once. It is a safe medicine to take. It contains no alcohol, opium or other dangerous drug. It contains no sugar or syrup. It aids the digestion and is a general system tonic, while it acts directly and strongly on the one special set of organs.



The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Curing Tobacco.

B. F. R., Michigan: For full information regarding the cultivation and curing of tobacco, write to your congressman, or to the United States department of agriculture. A pamphlet will be sent you covering the entire question. It is too long to give here.

To Pickle Fresh Pork.

A. S., Minnesota: The recipe for pickling 100 pounds of fresh pork is: Six gallons of water, nine pounds of salt, three pounds of brown sugar, one quart of molasses, three ounces of saltpetre, three ounces of red (or black) pepper, and one ounce of potash. Boil and skim well, and let it get cold. Let the pork hang 24 hours after being killed; salt it for two days, on a board from which the bloody brine may run. Then pack it in a cask after wiping each piece with a damp cloth. Put weights upon it after pouring over the brine. In five or six weeks reboil the brine, skim well and when cold pour it over the meat. It should be entirely covered with brine, and a cloth kept over it.

String Halt.

E. J. W., Illinois: Veterinarians and Pathologists are yet in doubt as to the cause of string halt. Young and old horses are subject to this affection. Some veterinarians incline to the opinion that disease of the hock may in some way be responsible for the sudden spasmodic flexion. No treatment has yet proved successful. A long rest will benefit at times if the disease is not severe.

Cream Foams in Churn.

Mrs. L. W., Missouri:—Give your cow 1 oz. of pulverized saltpetre in her drinking water once a day for three days, and after this give her a daily dose of 1 oz. of hyposulphite of soda for two weeks. It will be readily taken when powdered and sprinkled over a mess of scalded bran or cut feed. When cream is a little too warm it will sometimes foam in the churn. This may be overcome by adding a little cold water.

Cut on Barbed Wire.

M. L. C., Ohio:—Your mare seems to have been cut so severely that the service of a veterinarian may be necessary to attend to it. It may be necessary to put a few stitches in the wound. Yes, there is danger that if the cut is not properly covered that which is called cold may be taken in it. You will do well to poultice the part and afterward wash well with warm water and castile soap. Be sure that no sand or other foreign substance is in the cut. Apply this with a feather: Chloride of zinc, 1 drachm; water, 1 pint. Keep the part bandaged. If a tendon has been injured call a veterinarian.

Cow Has Garget.

G. H., Minnesota: The treatment of garget is: Keep the cow in a warm place. Give her ¾ lb of salts in three pints of warm water in which a cupful of molasses is stirred. After this operates give her once a day in drinking water for three days one oz. pulverized saltpetre. Bathe the udder for half an hour in warm water as warm as your hand will bear. Then soak and rub in the following with hand friction. Powdered camphor ½ oz.; extract of belladonna, 2 drachms; lard 2 ozs. The cow must have her udder relieved at least three times a day by milking her. Do not pull on the teats but gently press them to get the milk out.

Time to Cut Timber—Stump Sprouting.

J. A. L. (no state): In the growing season the sap of the tree is said to be rising, and toward the end of the season it is said to be going down, but the fact is that the water in a tree is always upward and the food material is always downward. In the fall the leaves close to elaborate food, and both the upward and downward movement come to rest but the water and food are only in suspense and start again in the spring when the temperature is sufficiently high to reawaken activity. You will see by this that there is no time in the year when the tree does not contain the full properties of life. It is claimed by many that the best time to cut a tree so that the stump will not sprout is in August.

Sheath Swollen.

J. C., Ohio: Your horse is very likely suffering from foul sheath. You must bathe with warm water for fully half an hour. Dry afterward, and then gently work out the penus, and wash it carefully with warm water and castile soap. The sheath must also be cleaned out. After this apply sweet oil to the inner part of the sheath and also to the penus. If inflammation continues apply this Goulard water: 2 ozs. Bather's solution of opium, 1 oz.; distilled water, 20 ozs. Should raw looking tumors resembling warts appear, the trouble is beyond the scope of the amateur, and the animal should be taken to a veterinarian.

Wart on Horse's Leg.

T. J. S., Illinois: For the bleeding wart on your horse's leg, tie a waxed thread around it, tightening it every day. It will soon drop off by cure in tightening the thread. When the wart is cut off apply to the roots acetic acid. This must be applied with a glass brush. Sometimes an application of pulverized alum 1 part, rosin 1 part and wheat flour 3 parts will heal the part without the acetic acid. If the wart is flat, a needle may be passed through it so that a basis may be made for the thread.

Lice on Young Calves.

R. W. G., West Virginia: For lice on calves, curry them well and clean out all dead hair; also clean the house in which they are kept, so that no old straw is left. Then take of tobacco 2 lb.; water, 1 gallon. Steep it for two hours, strain and apply warm. After a day's time wash off with soap and warm water and dry thoroughly. After ten days, re-apply.

Record of Leghorn.

R. P. D., Tennessee: The editor regrets to say that he cannot give you the greatest number of eggs laid by a Leghorn. Many exaggerated claims have been made, but it is pretty safe to say that the White Leghorn is the greatest egg-producer of all the various strains of fowls. The trouble with the Leghorn is that it likes to roam, and can fly over any which other fowls cannot go. It is a troublesome bird in towns, where neighbors like to live at peace, for it will fly over a fence and make short work of a newly planted garden. Another thing against the Leghorn is that, after a year's time, it is not a first-class table fowl. For the first nine weeks a Leghorn will grow as rapidly as the heavy breeds and makes an excellent broiler. After that time the Plymouth Rocks, Brahmas, Cochins and other heavy birds beat the Leghorn.

Worms in Mare.

W. M., Illinois: Your mare is troubled with worms called ascarides, which reside in the large intestine. At times it is almost impossible to rid them out. The best remedy, perhaps, is: Calomel, 3 drachms; tartar emetic, 1 drachm; mix and divide into three powders. Give one for three consecutive nights. Twenty-four hours after give a purgative ball of four drachms Barbadoes aloes. Ten days after this, if any worms are left, clean out the rectum with an ordinary soap and water injection, and use this as an injection afterward: Liquor of perchloride of iron, 2 ozs.; freshly made lime water, 1 quart. The lime water must not be made too strong.

Acts Like Grapes—Fowls Sneeze.

J. C. E., Ohio: Your letter describes grapes. Put a few drops of kerosene in a teaspoonful of sweet oil. Strip a feather so thin an inch of the tip. Dip this in the kerosene and oil, and insert the feather in the windpipe, twisting it around and withdrawing it. Some of the worms may be brought out, or they will be loosened or killed and the fowl will discharge them. Pinch the windpipe with the thumb and finger. In using the feather place the fowl back down between your knees. Open its bill and draw the tongue out. Seize the lower mandible and tongue thus drawn out between the forefinger and thumb nail of the left hand. This will bring into view the opening into the windpipe. Another remedy is to force a pellet of gum camphor down the throat every three hours until three pellets are given. Old runs and infected soil should have a frequent dressing of lime. The quarters must be thoroughly cleaned. Keep the fowls in warm quarters. See that the house has no cracks in it, and close it at night so that no air will enter. This will prevent roup. There are different forms of roup, and it is hard at times to distinguish roup from gapes. You may learn if the fowls have gape worms by opening the windpipe of one that has died. If roup appears, separate the sick from the well fowls at once, and scatter lime over the floor of the house.

Mare Kicks—In Heat.

W. A. M., Pennsylvania: A horse or mare may acquire the habit of kicking by the playful teasing of the one who has charge of it. Tickling of the animal also arouses its anger, and it begins to kick. Some animals acquire the habit of kicking from mere irritability and fidgetiness. Mares are much more subject to it than horses. Before the habit becomes established a thorn-brush hung which the animal may easily reach with its legs will kicks soon make it ridiculous and breaks the habit. Another device is to hang a piece of wood to ropes behind the animal, so that when it kicks the wood will rebound and give a blow. The animal will tire of this and quit kicking. But when the kicking habit is well established there is no cure. As your mare has been in heat for some time the irritation may be the cause of the kicking. She may be too fat for one thing, the ovaries may be undeveloped, there may be tumors to cause irritation and sterility, ostarch of the womb and other causes may be the matter with your mare that prevent her from conceiving, excite her and result in restlessness and kicking. If you have a veterinarian near by have him examine your mare.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To Get Rid of Worms.

Editor Blade Farmstead: Let E. B., Iowa, clear away around his wall for at least a foot in breadth to the depth where worms are found; then fill the space solidly with clean gravel. After trial let him report his success or failure.—J. W. Newcomb, Kenton, O.

Removing Rust From Mold Boards.

Editor Blade Farmstead:—Your answer about taking rust from moldboards to W. W. South Dakota, will work, but it is a rather slow process. W. W. will put a paste on the mold-board of Pearl's 98 per cent lye made by moistening a little of the powdered lye, he will have soon his plow will scour. Leave it on for three to five hours; then take an old knife and scrape off the rust and paste.—F. A. J. Shaffer, Yates Center, Kansas.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Swamp or Muck Soils.

These soils, when properly reclaimed, are of great value. The first essential in reclaiming them is to drain them thoroughly, not only to remove the excess of water, but also to permit a circulation of air in the soil. On this subject a late bulletin of the department of agriculture says:

The drainage is best accomplished at first by means of open ditches at frequent intervals. Muck soils settle greatly when drained, and if tiles are laid in the soft muck they will rise toward the surface and thus become ineffective. Draining is most effective when carried out gradually, and the soil should not be allowed to dry out too quickly, since its mechanical condition may be thus injuriously affected, its absorptive power for water in many cases almost completely destroyed, and the decomposition of the organic matter greatly retarded. After the soil has become firm tiles may be laid, especially if collars are used.

The Indiana station has shown that in case of the black soils of that state which are probably representative of a class, tile drainage is effective only when the sand and gravel which underlie such soils are tapped. By sinking in this underlying layer of sand or gravel a series of wells which are connected with tile at the depth of which it is desired to maintain the water level, the soil may probably be thoroughly drained without difficulty.

It is frequently found that muck soils even after the most careful draining are still unproductive. The

Calmage's Sermon.

BATTLES WITH EVIL

Contrast Between Open-Heartedness and Self-Interest.

From a scene in ancient story Dr. Talmage, in this discourse, draws lessons as appropriate for the time as they were appropriate for the time when the event occurred many centuries ago. Text, Judges iii. 15: But when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamimite, a man left-handed, and to him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon, the king of Moab.

Ehud was a ruler in Israel. He was left-handed, and, what was peculiar about the tribe of Benjamin, to which he belonged, there were in it seven hundred left-handed men; and yet, so dextrous had they all become in the use of the left hand that the Bible says they could sling stones at a hair's-breadth and not miss. Well, there was a king by the name of Eglon, who was an oppressor of Israel. He imposed upon them a most outrageous tax. Ehud, the man of whom I first spoke, had a divine commission to destroy that oppressor. He came, pretending that he was going to pay the tax, and asked to see King Eglon. He was told he was in the summer house, the place to which the king retired when it was too hot to sit in the palace. This summer house was a place surrounded by flowers and warbling birds. Ehud entered the summer house and said to King Eglon that he had a secret errand with him. Immediately all the attendants were waved out of the royal presence. King Eglon rises up to receive the messenger. Ehud, the left-handed man, puts his left hand to his right side, pulls out a dagger, and thrusts Eglon through until the haft went in after the blade. Eglon falls. Ehud comes forth to blow a trumpet of liberty amidst the mountains of Ephraim, and a great host is marshaled, and proud Moab submits to the conqueror, and Israel is free. So, O Lord, let all thine enemies perish! So, O Lord, let all thy friends triumph!

I learn first, from this subject, the power of left-handed men. There are some men who, by physical organization, have as much strength in their left hand as in their right hand; but there is something in the writing of this text which implies that Ehud had some defect in his right hand which impelled him to use his left. Oh, the power of left-handed men! Genius is often self-observant, careful of itself, not given to much toil, but turning increase to its own aggrandizement; while many a man, with no natural endowments, actually defective in physical and mental organization, has an earnestness for the right, a patient industry, an all-consuming perseverance, which achieve marvels for the kingdom of Christ. Though left-handed, as Ehud, they can strike down a sin as great and imperial as Egion.

I have seen men of wealth gathering about them all their treasures, snuffing at the cause of a world lying in wickedness, roughly ordering Lazarus off their doorstep, sending their dogs, not to lick his sores, but to hound him off their premises; catching all the pure rain of God's blessing into the stagnant, ropy, frog-inhabited pool of their own selfishness—right-handed men, worse than useless—while many a man with large heart and little purse, has out of his limited means, made poverty leap for joy, and started an influence that overspans the grave, and will swing round and round the throne of God, world without end. Amen.

Ah, me! It is high time that you left-handed men, who have been longing for this gift, and that eloquence, and the other man's wealth, should take your left hand out of your pockets. Who made all these railroads? Who set up all these cities? Who started all these churches, and schools, and asylums? Who has done the tugging, and running, and pulling? Men of no wonderful endowments, thousands of them acknowledging themselves to be left-handed, and yet they were earnest, and yet they were determined, and yet they were triumphant.

But I do not suppose that Ehud, the first time he took a sling in his left hand, could throw a stone at a hair's-breadth, and not miss. I suppose it was practice that gave him the wonderful dexterity. Go forth to your spheres of duty, and be not discouraged if, in your first attempts, you miss the mark. Ehud missed it. Take another stone, put it carefully into the sling, swing it around your head, take better aim, and the next time you will strike the center. The first time a mason rings his trowel upon the brick he does not expect to put up a perfect wall. The first time a carpenter sends the plane over a board, or drives a bit through a beam, he does not expect to make perfect execution. The first time a boy attempts a rhyme he does not expect to chime a "Lalla Rookh," or a "Lady of the Lake." Do not be surprised if, in your first efforts at doing good, you are not very largely successful. Understand that usefulness is an art, a science, a trade. There was an oculist performing a very difficult operation on the human eye. A young doctor stood by and said:

"How easily you do that; it don't seem to cause you any trouble at all." "Ah," said the oculist, "it is very easy now, but I spoiled a hatful of eyes to learn that." Be not surprised if it takes some practice before we can help men to moral eyesight, and bring them to a vision of the cross. Left-handed men, to the work! Take the gospel for a sling, and faith and repentance for the smooth stone from the brook; take sure aim, God direct the weapon, and great Goliaths will tumble before you.

When Garibaldi was going out to battle, he told his troops what he wanted them to do, and after he had described what he wanted them to do, they said, "Well, general, what are you going to give us for all this?" "Well," he replied, "i don't know what else you will get but you will get hunger, and cold, and wounds, and death. How do you like it?" His men stood before him for a little while in silence, and then they threw up their hands and cried: "We are the men! we are the men!" The Lord Jesus Christ calls you to his service. I do not promise you an easy time in this world. You may have precautions, and trials, and misrepresentations; but afterward there comes an eternal weight of glory, and you can bear the wounds, and the bruises, and the misrepresentations, if you can have the reward afterward. Have you not enough enthusiasm to cry out, "We are the men! we are the men!"

I learn also from this subject the danger of worldly elevation. This Eglon was what the world called a great man. There were hundreds of people who would have considered it the greatest honor of their life just to have him speak to them; yet, although he is so high up in worldly position, he is not beyond the reach of Ehud's dagger. I see a great many people trying to climb up in social position, having an idea that there is a safe place somewhere far above, not knowing that the mountain of fame has a top like Mont Blanc, covered with perpetual snow.

We laugh at the children of Shinar for trying to build a tower that could reach to the heavens; but I think, if our eyesight were only good enough, we could see a Babel in many a dooryard. Oh, the struggle is fierce. It is store against store, house against house, street against street, nation against nation. The goal for which men are running is chairs, and chandeliers, and mirrors, and houses, and lands, and presidential equipments. If they get what they anticipate, what have they? Men are not safe from calumny while they live, and, worse than that, they are not safe after they are dead; for I have seen swine root up graveyards. One day a man goes up into publicity, and the world does him honor, and people climb up into sycamore trees to watch him as he passes, and, as he goes along on the shoulders of the people, there is a waving of hats and a wild huzzah. To-morrow the same man is caught between the jaws of the printing press and mangled and bruised, and the very same persons who applauded him before, cry, "Down with the traitor! down with him!"

Belshazzar sits at the feast, the mighty men of Babylon sitting all around him. Wit sparkles like the wine and the wine like the wit. Music rolls up among the chandeliers; the chandeliers flash down on the decanters. The breath of hanging gardens floats in on the night air; the voice of revelry floats out. Amidst wreaths and tapestries, and folded banners, a finger writes. The march of the host is heard on the stairs. Laughter catches in the throat. A thousand hearts stop beating. The blow is struck. The blood on the floor is richer-hued than the wine on the table. The kingdom has departed. Belshazzar was no worse, perhaps, than hundreds of people in Babylon, but his position slew him. Oh, be content with just a position as God has placed you in. It may not be said of us, "He was a great general," or "He was an honored chieftain," or "He was mighty in worldly attainments," but this thing may be said of you and me, "He was a good citizen, a faithful Christian, a friend of Jesus." And that in the last day will be the highest of all eulogiums.

I learn further from this subject that death comes to the summer house. Eglon did not expect to die in that place. Amidst all the flower leaves that drifted like summer snow into the window, in the tinkle and dash of the fountains, in the sound of a thousand leaves fluting on one tree branch, in the cool breeze that came up to shake the feverish trouble out of the king's locks—there was nothing that spoke of death, but there he died. In the winter when the snow is a shroud and the wind is a dirge, it is easy to think of our mortality, but when the weather is pleasant and all our surroundings are agreeable, how difficult it is for us to appreciate the truth that we are mortal! And yet my text teaches that death does sometimes come to the summer house. He is blind and can not see the leaves. He is deaf and can not hear the fountains. Oh, if death would ask us for victims we could point him to hundreds of victims who would rejoice to have him come. Push back the door of that hovel. Look at that child, cold, and sick, and hungry. It has never heard the name of God but in blasphemy. Parents intoxicated, staggering around its straw bed. Oh, death, there is a mark for thee! Take it into the light! Before those little feet stumble in life's pathway give them rest.

Here is an aged man. He has done his work. He has done it gloriously. The companions of his youth all gone, his children dead, he longs to be at rest, and wearily the days and the nights pass. He says, "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly." Oh, death, there is a mark for thee! Take from him the staff, and give him the scepter! Up with him into the light, where eyes never grow dim, and the hair whitens not through the long years of eternity. At death will be all that. Death turns back from the straw bed, and from the aged man ready for the skies, and comes to the summer house. What does that boy here, thou bony, ghastly monster, amidst this waving grass, and under this sunlight sifting through the tree branches? Children are at play. How quickly their feet go, and their locks toss in the wind. Father and mother stand at the side of the room looking on, enjoying their glee. It does not seem possible that the wolf should ever break into that fold and carry off a lamb. Meanwhile an old archer stands looking through the thicket. He points his arrow at the brightest of the group—he is a sure marksman—the bow bends, the arrow speeds! Hush now. The quick feet have stopped, and the locks toss no more in the wind. Laughter has gone out of the hall. Death in the summer house!

Here is a father in mid-life; his coming home at night is the signal for mirth. The children rush to the door, and there are books on the evening stand, and the hours pass away on glad feet. There is nothing wanting in that home. Religion is there, and sacrifices on the altar morning and night. You look in that household and say, "I can not think of anything happier. I do not really believe the world is as sad a place as some people describe it to be." The scene changes. Father is sick. The doors must be kept shut. The death-watch chirps dolefully on the hearth. The children whisper, and walk softly where once they romped. Passing the house late at night, you see the quick glancing of lights from room to room. It is all over! Death in the summer house!

Here is an aged mother—aged, but not infirm. You think you will have the joy of caring for her wants a good while yet. As she goes from house to house to chat with grandchildren, her coming is a dropping of sunlight in the dwelling. Your children see her coming through the lane, and they cry, "Grandmother's come!" Care for her has marked up her face with many a deep wrinkle, and her back stoops with carrying your burdens. Some day she is very quiet. She says she is not sick, but something tells you you will not much longer have a mother. She will sit with you no more at the table, nor at the hearth. Her soul goes out so gently you do not exactly know the moment of its going. The hands that have done so many kindnesses for you right over the heart that has beat with love toward you since before you were born. Let the pilgrim rest, she is weary. Death in the summer house.

Gather about us what we will of comfort and luxury. When the pale messenger comes he does not stop to look at the architecture of the house before he comes in; nor, entering, does he wait to examine the pictures we have gathered on the wall; or, bending over your pillow, he does not stop to see whether there is color in the cheek, or gentleness in the eye, or intelligence in the brow. But what of that? Must we stand forever mourning among the graves of our dead? No! No! In the people in Egypt bring cages of birds to the graves of their dead, and then they open the cages and the birds go singing heavenward. So I would bring to the graves of your dead all bright thoughts and congratulations, and bid them sing of victory and redemption. I stamp on the bottom of the grave, and it breaks through into the light and the glory of heaven. The ancients used to think that the straits entering the Red Sea were very dangerous places, and they supposed that every ship that went through those straits would be destroyed, and they were in the habit of putting on weeds of mourning for those who had gone on that voyage, as though they were actually dead. Do you know what they called those straits? They called them the "Gate of Tears." I stand at the gate of tears through which many of your loved ones have gone, and I want to tell you that all are not shipwrecked that have gone through those straits into the great ocean stretching out beyond. The sound that comes from that other shore on still nights when we are wrapped in prayer makes me think that the departed are not dead. We are the dead—we who toil, we who weep, we who sin—we are the dead! How my heart aches for human sorrow! this sound of breaking hearts that I hear all about me! this last look of faces that never will brighten again! this last kiss of lips that never will speak again! this widowhood and orphanage! oh, when will the day of sorrow be gone?

After the sharpest winter, the spring dismounts from the shoulder of a southern gale and puts its warm hand upon the earth, and in its palm there comes the grass, and there come the flowers, and God reads over the poetry of birds, and brooks, and bloom, and pronounces it very good. What, my friends, if every winter had not its spring, and every night its day, and every gloom its glow, and every bitter now its sweet hereafter! If you have been on the sea, you know, as the ship passes in the night, there is a phosphorescent track left behind it, and as the waters roll up they toss with unimaginable splendor. Well, across this great ocean of human trouble Jesus walks. Oh, that in the phosphorescent track of his feet we might all follow and be illumined!

There was a gentleman in a railcar who saw in that same car three passengers of very different circumstances. The first was a maniac. He was carefully guarded by his attendants; his mind, like a ship dismasted, was beating against a dark, desolate coast, from which no help could come. The train stopped, and the man was taken out into the asylum, to waste away, perhaps, through years of gloom. The second passenger was a culprit. The outraged law had seized on him. As the cars jolted the chains rattled. On his face were crime, depravity and despair. The train halted, and he was taken out to the penitentiary, to which he had been condemned. There was the third passenger, under far different circumstances. She was a bride. Every hour was gone as a marriage-bell. Life glittered and beckoned. Her companion was taking her to his father's house. The train halted. The old man was there to welcome her to her new home, and his white locks snowed down upon her as he sealed his word with a father's kiss. Quickly we fly toward eternity. We will soon be there. Some leave this life condemned culprits, and they refuse a pardon. Oh, may it be with us, that leaving this fleeting life for the next, we may find our Father ready to greet us to our new home with a kiss forever. That will be a marriage banquet! Father's welcome! Father's bosom! Father's kiss! Heaven! Heaven!

COULD NOT SLEEP.

Mrs. Pinkham Relieved Her of All Her Troubles.

Mrs. MADGE BABCOCK, 176 Second St., Grand Rapids, Mich., had ovarian trouble with its attendant aches and pains, now she is well. Here are her own words: "Your Vegetable Compound has made me feel like a new person. Before I began taking it I was all run down, felt tired and sleepy most of the time, had pains in my back and side, and such terrible headaches all the time, and could not sleep well nights. I also had ovarian trouble. Through the advice of a friend I began the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and since taking it all troubles have gone. My monthly sickness used to be so painful, but have not had the slightest pain since taking your medicine. I cannot praise your Vegetable Compound too much. My husband and friends see such a change in me. I look so much better and have some color in my face."

Mrs. Pinkham invites women who are ill to write to her at Lynn, Mass., for advice, which is freely offered.

TO GIVE UP EVERY VICE.

"Well, sir!" demanded Horatio Bullion, "what particular reason have you to offer for asking me to let you have my daughter Gladys?"

"I—I love her, and she loves me," Reginald Biddlethwaite replied.

"Oh, of course," the blunt old magnate retorted; "I've heard that song from half a dozen others. That's to be taken for granted, but what other qualifications have you?"

"I must confess," the trembling young man answered, "that I am not rich; but I can truthfully say that I have no expensive habits. I don't drink; I don't gamble; I don't chew tobacco; I don't smoke; I don't—"

"Hold on," the millionaire broke in; "that's enough! You'll do. Your board and clothes won't cost much more than the gas you've been burning lately. What I object to is supporting my other three sons-in-law, who have all the faults you say you have not. I don't mind furnishing the husbands of my daughters with the necessaries of life, but I do hate to have to settle the bills for their luxuries. Now, there is just one other point I want to have settled before I give my consent."

"What is that?" Mr. Biddlethwaite eagerly asked.

"Promise me that you will not start a newspaper. The others have all tried it, and I can't stand many more such experiences."

Reginald's promise made three hearts happy.—Cleveland Leader.

WORN IN BUKOWINA

This is the odd and striking costume the women of Bukowina wear. The hat looks like a section of stovepipe, but the lady

WOMAN OF BUKOWINA.

likes it nevertheless, and of her embroidered skirt and robe she was proud enough to sit in them for her picture.

COULDN'T ROUGH IT.

Archbishop Temple on one occasion was put up by a clergyman during the absence of that clergyman's wife. On leaving the host politely expressed the hope that when next his lordship honored the house Mrs. Temple would accompany him.

"No, thanks," the archbishop laconically replied; "Mrs. Temple doesn't like roughing it."

The clergyman's feelings were deeply hurt, and he unburdened his soul to his wife on her return.

"Why, my dear," she exclaimed, "you didn't surely put the archbishop in the pink bedroom, did you?" He did.

"Oh, then, that's it; I put all the plate in the bed!"—Argonaut.

The Better Way.

Some poets there be who dip their pens
In honey, and write that woman is fair,
And some in their bitterness, write that she's

"A rag and a bone and a hank of hair."
But the poets who're wise
Dip their pens in ink
And let them dry as
They sit and think
—Cincinnati Commercial Appeal.

La Grippe

It's here again! The doctors say it mostly attacks the weak, the thin, those with poor blood and nerves all unstrung. Escape is easy, simply by taking

Scott's Emulsion

The oil is the very best food for making rich blood and producing force and energy. The hypophosphites give stability and strength to the nerves. The germs of La Grippe cannot affect a body thus fortified.

50c. and $1.00, all druggists.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

EDISON A TRAIN BOY.

HIS SPECULATION AFTER THE BATTLE OF SHILOH.

A Message to Every Station Sold a Thousand Papers for Him—How He Got Credit.

Give this boy all of the papers he wants on credit.
W. F. S.

On the wall of the Edison laboratory in Orange, N. J., the above curious sentence is framed. Naturally there is an interesting tale behind it, and the other day Mr. Edison told it as follows:

"During the war I used to sell papers on the railroad between Detroit and Port Huron. Many of the towns along the way had no local news dealers, and the people used to come down to the station every day and buy the papers of the train boy. I used to get around to the newspaper offices before daylight every day, and so from loafing around the composing room I got to know several of the printers.

"One morning I went into the office as usual and found every one in a state of excitement. I asked several what was the matter, but they paid no attention to me. Finally I grabbed one fellow by the apron as he started for the stone and yelled at him to tell me what the trouble was. He jerked away in a moment and said:

"'Don't bother me, boy. Battle of Shiloh! Ten thousand killed!' Then he rushed down the room. Ten thousand men killed! Why the news would create a storm of excitement. I jumped downstairs three steps at a time and rushed around to the telegraph office. I knew the operator at the station, and I had an idea.

"'Hello!' he said.

"'Hello,' said I. 'I want to send a telegram.'

"'Well, write it out,' said he.

"'You will have to fix it for me. Here's the point. Ten thousand men have been killed at a place called Shiloh. It will be in the paper this morning, and everybody will want it. Now will you telegraph these words to all the stations along the line and get the operators to paste them up—'Battle of Shiloh fought. Ten thousand killed.' If you will do it I will give you a morning paper every day for three months.'

"You see, I hadn't any money and I had to reach the fellow in some way. Those papers would save him quite an amount at the rate of five cents a day. But he hesitated, so to clinch the matter I added, 'And I will give you Harper's Magazine for a year.'

"That settled it. He agreed to do it, and I knew that if he kept his promise I would have customers enough waiting for me along the line. Then I went over and saw the fellow who gave out the papers to the carriers every day. I said to him: 'I'll take a thousand papers this morning.' He fairly gasped at me.

"'You'll take a thousand papers! Well, you will lay down thirty dollars right now. And you will be lucky if you get five hundred. Papers will be scarce to-day.'

"Well, that staggered me. They had always trusted me before that, but I suppose the size of the pile and the news of the battle made him stop short.

"I passed around by the door of the editorial office, which was pure luck, for I did not notice where I was going. It gave me a thought. At that time the editor of the paper was W. F. Storey, a fearless writer and a good newspaper man, but a martinet of the most crossgrained school. But he was my last hope, so I went up the stairs and knocked at his door. I got no answer, so I knocked again. No answer. Then I opened the door. He was sitting at a desk on the opposite side of the room. His back was toward me, but he was scribbling away for dear life.

"'Mr. Storey!' I said, and received no answer.

"'Mr. Storey!' I said again, louder this time. He paid not the slightest attention to me, so I walked over and around the desk and stood directly opposite to him. He did not look up.

"'Mr. Storey,' I said as firmly as I could, 'I am a newspaper boy. I sell your paper on the trains up to Port Huron. The battle of Shiloh has been fought, and I have advertised it along the line. Now they won't trust me for a lot of papers. What will I do about it?'

"He never said a word; he never even looked up. He simply reached for a blank sheet of paper and wrote that order up there on the wall.

"I shoved the note to the delivery man who simply whistled, but gave me the papers willingly now. I got them on the train, and we got away on time, after all."

"Now, it is curious how these things stick in one's memory. I can remember very well the crowd that waited at the first place we stopped. The people were terribly excited. They wanted those papers faster than I could give them out. There were so many waiting that I could not serve them all by the time the train pulled out. It gave me another idea. I raised the price to ten cents when we reached the next place, and I sold them as fast as I could at that. Further on several men offered me twenty-five cents.

"Well, I was about one hundred and fifty dollars ahead on the day. I went back and paid my bill at the paper office, and the money, well, I did things with that, too. But what was more to the point, I saw that all that happened had really resulted from those telegrams. I thought if the telegraph would do such a wonderful thing there must be something in it worth studying. I did study it and that practically is what led me into the business of inventing."—

THEODORE WATERS.

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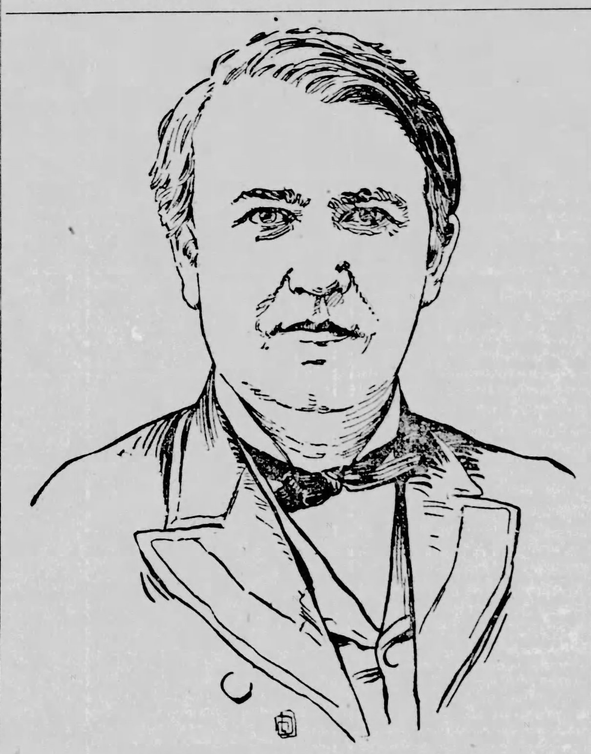

LATEST PORTRAIT OF THOS. E. EDISON.

EAT BEFORE GOING TO BED

Here is good advice to thin people who want to grow fat. It seems contrary to all our early training, but is full of good common sense, and comes from a prominent physician. His suggestions are as follows:

"If you are thin and want to put flesh upon your bones, eat before going to bed for the night. Physiology teaches us that there is wasting away of tissue while a person sleeps as well as when he is awake, and this being so, there should be continuous nourishment. Food taken at dinner or in the early evening is always digested at the time of retiring, and the activity of the process of assimilation continues until long after we are asleep.

"If the tissues are not nourished, they are pulled down by the wasting process, and as a result sleeplessness ensues. On a full stomach, however, or with some food to sustain the system, there is a building up of the tissue.

"Man is the only creature I know of who does not deem it proper to sleep on a good meal. The infant, in this respect, instinctively cries to be fed at night, showing that food is necessary during that time as well as through the day, and that left too long without it causes a discomfort, which it makes known by crying.

"There is no need for rest in the digestive organs, provided the quantity of food eaten is not above normal during the twenty-four hours. Too long intervals between meals are bad for the stomach, from the fact that the cessation and resumption of work of the digestive organs tends to enfeeble them.

"A moderate working of the organs through the twenty-four hours is much more beneficial. I would advise those suffering from insomnia to take something to eat before going to sleep always. A glass of milk and bread, or any digestible food will do."

Bismarck and His King.

When Bismarck once complained to the old emperor about the woeful falling off in his physical powers, his majesty broke in:

"Tut! Look at me. I am a much older man than you are, Bismarck, and yet I am still able to ride."

"Ah, yes," rejoined the chancellor, "but then, your majesty must remember that a rider always lasts longer than his horse."—San Francisco Argonaut.

An Odd Reform.

"Did you swear off?"

"Yep."

"From what?"

"The swearing-off habit."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

HER BEST GOWN.

When the farmer's wife of Japan dresses up to go to town she presents an artistic appearance, for the daintiest

JAPANESE COUNTRYWOMAN IN HOLIDAY ATTIRE.

shades of satin and silk and the prettiest embroideries make her beautiful. She does not overdress, but leans toward simplicity and quiet effects.

Much More Useful.

"A man has written an article on how to tell the age of an oyster."

"He'd spend his time better if he got up a scheme for ascertaining the date of an oyster's death. I hated to swallow one last night that died before the war."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

According to Her Folly.

The coquette's very apt to find,
Her's is not a happy lot;
She worries when she is in love,
And also when she's not.
—Chicago News.

Sat Up All Night.

"I was so severely afflicted with rheumatism that at times I had no use of my hands or arms. I would be obliged to sit up all night, suffering great pain. I took four bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla and am entirely cured of rheumatism, and I feel better than I have felt for years."—Mrs. S. B. Rieger, Deerfield, Ohio.

HOOD'S PILLS cure all liver ills. Easy to take, easy to operate; reliable, sure. 25 cents.

Free.—A Wonderful Shrub.—Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.

Mr. Calvin G. Bliss.

Disorders of the Kidneys and Bladder cause Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Gravel, Pain in the Back, Bladder Disorders, difficult or too frequent passing water, Dropsy, etc. For these diseases a Positive Specific Cure is found in a new botanical discovery, the wonderful KAVA-KAVA Shrub, called by botanists, the piper methysticum, from the Garden River, East India. It has the extraordinary record of 1,200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly on the Kidneys, and cures by draining out of the Blood the poisonous Uric Acid, Lithates, etc., which cause the disease.

Rev. John H. Watson testifies in the New York World that it saved him from the edge of the grave when dying of Kidney disease, and terrible suffering when passing water. Mr. Calvin G. Bliss, North Brookfield, Mass., testifies to his cure of long standing Rheumatism. Mr. Jos. Whitten, of Wolfboro N. H., at the age of eighty five, writes of his cure of Dropsy and swelling of the feet. Kidney disorder and Urinary difficulty. Many ladies, including Mrs. C. Fowler, Lockport, N. Y., and Mrs. Sarah Tharp, Monticello, Ind., also testify to its wonderful curative power in Kidney and allied disorders peculiar to womanhood.

That you may judge of the value of this Great Discovery for yourself, we will send you one Large Case by mail FREE, only asking that when cured yourself you will recommend it to others. It is a Sure Specific and cannot fail. Address, The Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 409 Fourth Avenue, New York City.

The Sunday School.

LESSON 6, FEBRUARY 5, 1899.

The Nobleman's Son Healed.

Golden Text: Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.—John iv. 53.

(John iv:43-54. Memory verses, 49-51.)

43. Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

44. For Jesus himself testified that a prophet hath no honor in his own country.

45. Then when he was come into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

46. So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum.

47. When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him and besought him that he would come down and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

48. Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

49. The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my son die.

50. Jesus saith unto him, Go thy way; thy son liveth. And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way.

51. And as he was now going down, his servants met him, saying, Thy son liveth.

52. Then inquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.

53. So the father knew that it was at the same hour in the which Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth: and himself believed, and his whole house.

54. This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judea into Galilee.

Illustrative Applications.

For Jesus himself testified that a prophet hath no honor in his own country (v. 44). Jesus could not get much standing-place in Galilee until great news of him had come from Jerusalem. The Galileans refused to recognize a near-by and domestic excellence. Fight against that tendency. Do not be tardy to recognize excellence till some other place has crowned it. The friend in your town, on your street, doing nobly, is worthy your acquaintance, praise, various and brotherly help, even though some other town has not yet had chance to discover how admirable he is. Years ago, among the mining regions of the far west, I found that the miner who stuck by his claim, and thoroughly worked it, as a general rule got on better than he who went scurrying round because of the hearsay of richer finds. Look for the gold of character and nobleness right about you. Foster what is at your hand.

And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum (v. 46). "It ain't so hard to be contented with the things we have," the old woman said; "it's being contented with the things we haven't that's so tryin'." I don't know about that," said Uncle Silas; "when he begin to look at things our neighbors have, and we haven't, we always pick out just the things we want. They live in a nice house, we say, and we have only a little one. They have money, and we need to count every penny. They have an easy time, and we live to work. We never say, 'They had typhoid fever, but it did not come near us; they have a son in the insane asylum, but our brains are sound. Staggering feet go into their grand door, but nothing worse than tired ones come home to ours at night.' You see when we begin to call Providence to account for things that don't come to us, it's only fair to take in all kinds of things."

He went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son; for he was at the point of death (v. 47). Every sorrow has a benignant side, which forces to Jesus. We make sorrow wholly hurtful when we will not let it force us Christward. And remember that the heart of Jesus is the true confessional. There is no sorrow that you may not tell out there.

Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will in no wise believe (v. 48). Again and again I have seen exhibitions of the precise spirit which Jesus here gently rebuked. Some one has heard some other one tell of some marvelous experience, or has read of some startling experience, or has read of some startling conversion, and has said to me, "Except I can have such sign, or go through the same strange process, I will not believe I can be a Chirstian." Such want to put faith in feelings rather than in Christ. But Christ is Savior, not feelings. Do not lay out beforehand program for Christ.

The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die (v. 49). Give up your preconceived notions of haws and whens, and keep clinging to Christ. Said Rutherford, "I was driven to tears' straits that I must of necessity go to Jesus; and if he had met me with a drawn sword in his hand, I would sooner have thrown myself upon the edge of his sword than have gone away from him; for I knew him to be my last hope."

The man believed the word that Jesus spake unto him, and he went his way (v. 50). If any one wants to know what faith is, I know nowhere he can get better answer than exactly here. Faith is taking Christ at his word, and obeying his word. You take Christ at his word? But do you practice on that word, actually obey it, as did this nobleman? The proof that I have faith in the ship is that I go aboard of her.

Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him (v. 52). How different this journey to Capernaum from the one from it to Cana! That to Cana hurried, anxious. This to Capernaum leisurely, restful. That which made the difference? Implicit reliance on the word of Christ. Here is the real rest of faith—not a wild ecstasy, but a calm trusting. Take you some word of Christ applicable to your need. Rest on it, and give over care, as did the nobleman. Said Mr. Spurgeon to me, when I asked him how he could be so light-hearted under his vast and crushing responsibilities: "I have a good Lord, he will never fail me; I plead his promises, I am sure he will be true to them."—Wayland Hoyt, D. D., in S. S. Times.

New of a Layman.

Bill—What do you reckon that doctor t'umps me all over de chest for?

Jake—Tryin' to see how much dough you had in your inside pocket, of course.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

How It May Be Done.

Eminent Financier—Huncher is the stock of the X. Y. and Z. road down to the figure we want to pay for it yet?

Confidential Secretary—Not yet, sir.

Eminent Financier—Send out another report that the officers are trying to sell the road.—Chicago Tribune.

WHY MUNICH IS CLEAN

The new woman of Munich can give her progressive Western sister a lesson in "advance movements." She has been appointed to clean the streets.

The authorities say that woman is in her own province when she has a broom

AT WORK ON MUNICH STREETS

in her hand and that the streets are in a much better condition since the new order of things has existed.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S NAME

Born Miss Azon, Her Marriage Made Her Mrs. Albert Wettin.

The prevalent idea that Queen Victoria's name, were her present royal designation abrogated, would be plain "Mrs. Guelph," is an entire mistake. The queen's legal name were she by some mysterious process to become a simple commoner would be "Mrs. Wettin," by virtue of her marriage with Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, whose name, stripped of territorial and other garnishings, was plain "Albert Wettin."

Wettin is the patronymic of King Leopold of Belgium, of King Albert of Saxony, of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, of the duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, of the duke of Saxe-Weimer and of the duke of Saxe-Meiningen, as well as of the prince of Wales and his brothers and of Prince Charles of Portugal. Wettin, who died in 1195, was a descendant of one Wittikind, who was a contemporary of the great Charlemagne.

The majority of the reigning princes of Europe claim to be descended from Wittikind, among them being King Christian of Denmark, King Oscar of Sweden, the grand duke of Oldenburg, and the czar of Russia. The patronymic of these four rulers is Oldenburg, the emperor of Russia being neither a Romanoff nor yet a Holstein-Gottorp, as has been stated.

The queen prior to her marriage was entitled to the patronymic of Azon—she was Miss Azon, in fact. Of the same name are the reigning prince of Liechtenstein and the duke of Cumberland, the king of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, as he is now. The founder of the house of Azon died in the year 8[illegible] and was margrave or marquis of Este. It is for this reason that the royal house of Wales has sometimes made use of the name D'Este, notably in the case of the duke of Sussex, a younger son of King George III., who gave the name of D'Este, after marriage, to his morganatic wife.

IN OLDEN TIMES

People overlooked the importance of permanently beneficial effects and were satisfied with transient action; but now that it is generally known that Syrup of Figs will permanently overcome habitual constipation, well-informed people will not buy other laxatives, which act for a time, but finally injure the system. Buy the genuine, made by the California Fig Syrup Co.

DOGS PROTECT POLICEMEN.

The communal authorities of Ghent have decided to provide the policemen on night duty with dogs capable of defending them in the event of attack. The experiment is an interesting one, and in the towns where it has been tried it is said to have yielded excellent results. This is not the only police reform which is to be introduced in Belgium. At Schaerbeek, one of the suburbs of Brussels, all the policemen will soon be provided with bicycles, special sheds for which are to be constructed at all the police stations.

A Venerable Heresy.

Now and then a man can be found who clings to the venerable heresy that the constitution of the United States was designed to prevent the American people from being a nation, but they will soon be extinct. Senator Vest is about the last exponent of the heresy.—Indianapolis Journal.

Releasing the Sermons.

He was intently watching a gang of men breaking stone to make a new road.

"What are you looking for?" inquired some men who were passing.

"The sermons that I have heard are to be found in stones," he replied.—Chicago Evening Post.

25 CTS. PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION 25 CTS.

Good Talker.

Bill—Is your wife much of a conversationalist?

Jill—Is she? Why, that woman can't yawn without opening her mouth about it!—Yonkers' Statesman.

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Patents A. B. PATTISON, Wash. D. C. Advice as to patentability and INVENTIONS. Guide free. Mention BLADE.

AGENTS WANTED.

$75 Month and Expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; staff outfit free. PEASE MFG. CO., STATION F, CINCINNATI, O.

WANTED A good, reliable farmer or stockman in each county to handle our goods. $3 to $5 per day to right party. Address with stamp for full particulars, LIVE STOCK REMEDY CO., St. Louis, Mo.

$3 a Day Sure Send your address and we will show you how to make $3 a day sure; you can do the work and live at home anywhere in the country; where you live. Send us your address and we will explain the business fully; remember we guarantee a clear profit of $3 for every day's work; absolutely sure; don't delay; write to-day. ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., Box 113, DETROIT, MICH.

WANTED RELIABLE MEN to every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences and conspicuous places in the country; weekly salary $15.00 and expenses; $65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES not to exceed $2.50 per day. Money deposited with any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars. The Globe Medical Electric Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

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Rubber Goods of every description. Catalogue free. Edwin Mercer & Co., Toledo, O.

For Men, Women and Children. The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co., 211 Huron St., Toledo, Ohio. Chicago Office. RUBBER GOODS

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WANTED SOLDIERS' HOMESTEADS The address of all Soldiers who made a HOMESTEAD filing on less than 160 acres before June 22, 1874, can hear of something to their FINAL ADVANTAGE

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1899.

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THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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Entered at the postoffice at Toledo as second-class mail matter.

CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 173.000

BLADE TEA SETS.

In a week or two we shall announce a new deal in the way of dinner sets and tea sets. We have abandoned the American goods on account of the potteries having formed a trust, and we shall now supply the very best English china, imported especially for our use. The English goods are far superior to goods we have been furnishing, and but little higher in price. Watch our announcement next week or week after, and do not send any more orders on our old advertisement.

EUROPE AMERICA'S DEBTOR.

Here is an unprecedented state of affairs.

The United States has become a great self-supporting nation. Her exports have grown to an enormous figure while her imports have decreased. The result is that the big balance is on the right side of the ledger, and to-day Europe is debtor to the United States to the extent of an enormous sum, said to exceed $150,000,000.

The countries of Europe are dazed. The trade expansion of this country is a wonderful surprise to them. Following the splendid harvests in this country came the outburst of enterprise as the result of the Spanish war, and in consequence of all this our relations to the rest of the world are those of a creditor towards a debtor.

Lord Rothschild's representative believes this condition will continue. He says:

"There is no reason to suppose this will stop so long as America's policy of expansion continues. Take Cuba for example. The American trade with that island has always been good, but just imagine what its industrial value will be when America has had it in hand for a few years. In the Philippines the same thing will happen, but on a smaller scale.

"The result must be that with America's increased activity in commerce and industry the balance to her credit in the general trade account of the world will go on growing and growing and Europe's indebtedness to her will deepen proportionately."

Even the conservative Bank of England takes a remarkably bright view of America's commercial prospects. The deputy governor of the bank declares that the receipts of American railroads tell the story of the country's prosperity, that the totals have been jumping up steadily, and that this is a true index of the condition of trade. Continuing, he says that "America stands in fear of no nonsense from trades unions which hamper enterprise so much over here. It strikes me the American workingman is a smarter man altogether. He is more ingenious, self-reliant and pushing. Moreover his activity is not cramped by societies which tell him how many hours he is to work."

Berlin is now practically living on American money, and other great commercial centers are doing the same thing, except on a smaller scale. The plan of expansion, combatted by a few people who are afraid of their own shadows, has already made America the great financial center of the world, and to continue these conditions means more power and influence to this great Republic.

AN INCREASE IN WAGES.

Recently the wages of the employes of the Louisville and Nashville and the Missouri -Pacific railroads have been voluntarily increased. These are two of the largest systems in the country and the number of men affected reaches far into the thousands. This is a pretty good indication of better times throughout the Southern states, for if these two great roads feel justified in increasing the wages of their men it is a safe guess that other lines of business are flourishing.

It will be a long time before the free silver papers will hear of this voluntary increase in wages. If they do hear of it they will not mention it. However, if some little establishment should reduce the wages of a half-dozen men it would be heralded from one end of the country to the other. These silverites are not looking for better times. They thrive on calamity. For the sake of seeing their pet idea prevail they would willingly see distress on every hand.

This is why the free silver calamity howler is shunned like a case of smallpox.

During the recent war the casualties on the American side were 298 killed and 1,645 wounded. The interstate commerce commission says that the equipping of railroad cars with automatic couplers, according to law, has resulted in the reduction of accidents from all causes largely exceeding, in a single year, the entire number killed and wounded on the American side during the war with Spain. That law saves human life. The railroads of the country have one year more in which to meet the requirements of the law.

Mrs. Helen Grant, the second wife of Apostle Grant, leader in the Mormon church, is said to have remarked, while speaking in defense of Congressman Roberts: "I have six beautiful daughters and I wish I could find one good man who could marry them all." What a prize package! Think of the distinction of having six mothers-in-law in one woman!

Mr. Bryan graciously allows that "Leaders die, but principles do not." As Mr. Bryan's cardinal principle is to oppose anything and everything in the way of national progress, he can congratulate himself that this principle will not die so long as mules are bred.

RECORD-BREAKING WEEK.

For several weeks the New York stock market has been more active than for years, but last week the records were smashed in all important financial items. The total number of shares changing hands during the week were 5,715,975; and as the par value is $100 per share, the enormous money value of the transactions is apparent.

The weekly statement of the associated banks of New York shows a total of almost 245 millions reserves, which surpasses the previous week by nine millions. The total deposits exceeded 849 millions; the total loans were almost 721 millions; while the total clearnings for the week were $1,409,245,846. All these items exceed any previous records.

Nothing is so accurate an index to the volume of business as the bank clearings. As noted above, the aggregate last week reached nearly a billion and a half. Here is a comparison of the total clearings for the third week in January of the years since the panic of 1893, which is well worth studying:

1894	$ 431,445,597
1895	495,021,039
1896	510,040,405
1897	608,258,090
1898	852,827,085
1899	1,409,245,846

The rising tide of business is now running at flood. The commerce of the country is responding to the favorable conditions. Our enormous export trade is keeping up its phenomenal showing. The balance of trade is so heavily in our favor that vast sums of American capital are now employed abroad. The London Statist, referring to this, has been suggesting that this capital may be withdrawn at its owners' pleasure, and that this would send up interest rates in Europe. The Statist seems to be unnecessarily alarmed. With the ample money supply we have here, with all kinds of business active, there does not seem to be any reason why American investments abroad should be recalled.

The impetus in the business of the country is the cause of the advance in stocks, and consequently of the activity on the stock exchange; and the condition in New York are not different, except in degree, from those existing in other cities of the country. Railway earnings are increasing all over the country. Corporate business of all kinds is in step with the railways. All are making money. Hence their stocks are more valuable, and consequently men are eager to invest in them; and the competition of would-be buyers runs up the price.

All these things are pleasant reading to every one except those who still are enslaved by the false teachings of Bryan and his school of rainbow-chasers. These facts disprove all the Bryanite positions on the currency question. We have the gold standard, but never had so much money in circulation; we are no longer a debtor but a creditor nation; instead of being the "slaves" of foreign capital, we are independent of it. What answer have the free silverites to this?

DOWN THE TOBOGGAN.

When Governor Pingree feels in his vest pocket these days for the state of Michigan he does not find it there. The bluffing, bombastic, profane dictator is fast losing his grip.

Following his failure to defeat Senator Burrows comes the startling information that the legislature will not only refuse to do his bidding but that the Republican majority will actually defy him. Governor Pingree may fume and threaten, but like the loud-mouthed pugilist he will accomplish little.

Few will sorrow over his political downfall. While he may have done Michigan some good his dictatorial manner has become unbearable and the people of the state refuse to permit him to do their thinking and acting for them. He set up a political machine and while he was able to manage it he was obeyed because he was feared.

The great majority of those who have watched Pingree's course believe him to be a demagogue. Pretending at all times to be the champion of the rights of the people and opposed to corporations of all kinds he did not hesitate to push to the front for the senatorship a man who has grown rich through corporations. The fight against Senator Burrows awakened the Republicans of Michigan out of their trance and the indications now are that they are through with Pingree and his isms.

Pingree's decline in power is another proof that it does not pay to be a political boss and demagogue.

IT MAKES FOR PEACE.

One of the most powerful influences working for the perpetuation of peace between the United States and the countries of Western Europe, is the dependence of the latter upon ourselves for food supplies.

An analysis of our export trade will show the magnitude of this dependence, and the importance to our farmers, even more than to our manufacturers, of the perpetuation of peace. While our manufacturers sent abroad, during the fiscal year ended June 30 last, merchandise valued at 290 millions, our farmers supplied food products to the value of 853 millions.

Western Europe is more and more dependent upon other countries for breadstuffs and meat supplies, and we are the nearest and best source. Our policy is not aggressive and meddling, and on our part there is no reason for strained political relations. Their dependence upon us is a powerful restraining influence against any interference with ourselves. Mutual trade relations are thus powerfully conducive to continued peace.

RUSSIA'S LATEST STEP.

If the story be true that a treaty of alliance has been concluded between Russia and Afghanistan, then one of the cardinal policies of English rule in India has failed, and the Anglo Indian empire has been jeopardized. For years it has been the constant aim to keep the Afghan ameer from close relations with Russia, to maintain a "buffer state" between India and Russia.

If such a treaty has been made, the buffer state exists no longer, and Afghanistan is to all interests and purposes a Russian area. The way to India is open, should the czar decide to try conclusions, and conquer for Russia a clear path to the Indian ocean.

The Asiatic situation grows in complexity. The closing century may yet see a war of nations for the domination of Asia, that will have the result of reconstructing the map of Europe as well as settling the old Eastern question.

If the United States senate has the proper conception of the eternal fitness of things it will ratify the treaty and will do so without any more nonsensical delays.

LENTZ THE MAN.

Hon. John J. Lentz will be Mr. Bryan's candidate for governor of Ohio, and all Democrats who are devout followers of the Nebraska man and still believe that free silver and the Chicago platform are panaceas for all political ills are expected to rally to the support of Mr. Lentz's candidacy.

It is quite generally understood in political circles that Mr. Bryan and Mr. Lentz have reached an understanding. The program is for Mr. Lentz to become the candidate of his party for governor. If nominated he is to have the support of the Bryan wing of the party all over the country. Ohio is to be made the great battle ground. Silver orators will overrun the state. Coin Harvey's millions, if he collects them, are to be poured into Ohio. Lentz is to be elected and the administration is to be defeated in the home of the President.

When all this is accomplished Mr. Lentz is to be rewarded by being made vice president on the ticket with Mr. Bryan in 1900.

It is a big scheme, and we charge nothing for giving Mr. Lentz the information that he is bound to fail.

In the first place Lentz will have to fight for the nomination. There are many very good Democrats in Ohio who are quite weary of Bryan, Lentz, free silver and calamity howlers. Neither do they like Mr. Lentz's tirades against President McKinley. The nomination will not be handed him on a silver platter. There will be some strong men in the field, and the name of Bryan will not have any magical effect on them.

But should Mr. Lentz be nominated his election to the office of governor would be as far away as if he had not received the nomination. Ohio is not going Democratic this year. It will fall about 100,000 votes short. All the free silver orators in the country and all the money at Coin Harvey's command can not make this state Democratic. It is as true to the administration and to the principles of the Republican party as is the needle to the North pole. Calamity wails will be laughed at in Ohio this year.

Mr. Lentz is too ambitious. However, the Republicans of Ohio would be delighted to see him the Democratic nominee for governor. They would welcome a fight with all the free silver power and might of the country. If Mr. Bryan and Mr. Lentz desire to make Ohio the great battlefield this year the Republicans are willing, and will promise to give these gentlemen a most interesting time for their money.

OLIVER P. MORTON'S WIDOW.

The widow of Oliver P. Morton, Indiana's great war governor, is said to be in destitute circumstances and it is proposed that the state pension her by giving her $100 a month for the remainder of her life.

The precedent involved in the proposition should not deter the state from taking immediate action. Indiana had but one great war governor and his services to the state and nation were so conspicuous and so loyal that they cannot be measured in dollars and cents.

Governor Morton's task was neither light nor delicate. There was a strong copperhead sentiment in Indiana, stronger and more bitter than in any state north of the Ohio river. Governor Morton not only throttled that unruly and dangerous element but caused his state to give to President Lincoln and the Union cause the moral, financial and physical support so much needed.

It would be a disgrace to the great and wealthy commonwealth not to properly care for the widow of such a man. If she is in financial straits the people of Indiana should come to her assistance as promptly as Governor Morton come to the assistance of the government.

SERIOUS TROUBLE AHEAD.

There are stormy times ahead in Great Britain. Reports from there are to the effect that the manufacturers are organizing for a desperate fight with the labor unions.

The capital and labor of England have never been on as friendly terms with each other, as is the case on this side of the Atlantic. On the one hand capital has been more arrogant and exacting, and the result has been that organized labor has been less judicious and less willing to please. While each is dependent on the other neither has been willing to recognize the other's rights.

Labor in Great Britain is well organized and has been for years. It will be able to carry on a long and stubborn fight. On the other hand if the great manufacturing interests of England combine it will be a powerful force.

The world will hope for an amicable solution of the trouble. If the two parties would fraternize, as is done in this country there would be little danger of an outbreak. It is always well for both capital and labor to remember the close relations existing between them, which, if disturbed, will cause both to suffer.

THE NEXT CENSUS.

A very strong effort will be made in the house to restore the application of civil service rules to the organization and administration of the next census bureau. The bill originally provided for such application, but the senate struck the provision out and now the house committee is asked to restore it.

To be of value, statistics must be compiled carefully and impartially by intelligent and attentive persons; and at least two ex-superintendents of the census have lately testified in public that such persons cannot be obtained with certainty if the merit system of appointment is not employed. Congress will have no defense if the offices in the next census bureau are handed out as political rewards, rather than given to persons selected for their ability to perform the duties well.

Already a bill has been introduced in the New York legislature to abolish capital punishment by making first degree murder punishable by life imprisonment. The day of killing criminals is almost at an end. Here in Ohio, under the present law, electrocutions will be few and far between. Juries are becoming more and more averse to assuming the responsibility for the taking of a human life, and it will not be many years until all the states will refuse to legalize the murder of its criminals.

Resolutions have been introduced in the South Carolina legislature against expansion. South Carolina is a great nullification state. She does not take kindly to enlarged America.

The Nicaragua canal will be built, and it will be an American waterway. The Spanish war has not only made it a certainty, but has hastened the enterprise.

Governor Pingree is not so much in the public eye since the election of Senator Burrows. He even hasn't smashed a trust since that event.

BUSINESS OF A YEAR.

Is the country expanding?

Is Uncle Sam a good financier?

Are we showing the world how to conduct a big business?

Statistics are not always dry and uninteresting.

Here are some which should make every citizen glad he is an American:

The story of the foreign commerce of 1898 is now complete. Its exports are the largest in our history, its imports the smallest since 1895, although the consuming population is now 33 per cent. greater than at that time.

The exports of merchandise for the year reached $1,254,925,169. The value of imports for the year was $633,664,634.

And as if to emphasize the great work of this greatest year the month of December made for itself the highest record of exports ever made by any month in our history. The total exports of December were $137,847,448.

Pretty big balance on the right side of the ledger.

But here is another item worthy your consideration:

The largest exports in our history, coupled with the unusually small imports, were naturally accompanied by the largest net importations of gold. The total gold importations for the year were $158,036,252, and the total gold exportations $16,194,954, making the excess of imports of gold for the year $141,841,298. The largest gold importation of any preceding year was that of 1896, when it amounted to but $104,731,259, and when the excess of imports over exports was only $46,474,369, while only two years in the decade, 1896 and 1898, show any excess of imports of gold.

The total imports of silver, most of which comes in with lead ore, were during the year $29,029,724, a sum larger than that of any earlier years save 1896 and 1897, while the exports, stated in bullion value (except coins of the United States exported), were $53,797,104, a sum larger than that of any preceding years except 1895, 1896 and 1897.

Nothing dry about these figures. They tell the story of a record-breaking year, and on the side we licked Spain to a standstill.

If you are a calamity howler stop your croaking and get in line to make even a better showing for 1899.

COURT-MARTIAL ORDERED.

The country will commend President McKinley's promptness in dealing with General Eagan. While a good many sympathize with the commissary general and find excuse for his intemperate language, it is not forgotten that the discipline of the army is involved. The efficiency of the American army is due in large measure to the fact that from the time of Washington down to the present its commanders have been strict disciplinarians and have almost invariably inflicted severe punishment for insubordination. It's no time to be lenient now, simply because the country does not happen to be at war.

General Eagan has himself to blame for his present predicament. The language he used was not reeled off in a moment of passion. He prepared his statement and presented it in writing to the war commission. If he lost his head he is not the kind of a man to hold an important military position. In the first place he had no business to use such language, knowing the result, and in the second place as he refuses to resign the President would be derilect in his duty should he do anything less than order a trial by court-martial.

RATIFY THE TREATY.

The war with Spain is not at an end. It can not be formally closed until the senate ratifies the peace treaty.

This government dictated the terms of peace and now the senate is tardy in giving its consent to these terms.

Day after day is being taken up with useless talk about expansion, and the vote is delayed whereby we pass from the stage of cessation of hostilities to that of absolute peace.

Certain members of the Senate seem to think the country is holding its ear to the ground to hear what they have to say on the expansion question.

They are greatly mistaken. The people perfectly understand that Dewey settled the expansion question last May, and that the only question now is the policy we will exercise over the new possessions.

What is wanted of the Senate is a prompt vote on the ratification of the treaty. When this is done and everything settled these talkative gentlemen can go about the country and talk anti-expansion as much as they please, and they will be considered simply harmless and misguided individuals.

The thing to do now is to end the war. The way to end the war is to ratify the treaty.

The present situation does not reflect credit on the members of the Senate.

While the state of Maine retains her public servants year after year she does not fail to rebuke them if their public acts do not represent the sentiment of the voters. This is true in the case of Senator Hale, who was re-elected the other day. Mr. Hale is an opponent of expansion and disapproves of the work of the President's peace commission. The result was that forty Republican members of the Maine legislature bolted the caucus which nominated Mr. Hale. This shows that Messrs. Reed and Hale do not represent the views of their constituents.

New York state has a road law, passed last winter, which is working well. It provides that if the smaller towns will take hold of road improvements the state will add a bonus of 25 per cent on all money raised for the purpose. A number of towns have embarked in the enterprise and have secured $140,000, and the state will have to add $35,000. Great scheme.

Tom Platt has no love for Roosevelt, Choate or Depew, and yet the first is governor, the second ambassador to Great Britain, and the third United States senator. The past few months have been disastrous to a number of political bosses and Mr. Platt has not escaped.

It will be observed that Mr. Eagan is less belligerent than he was a few days ago.

THE CRUCIAL CAMPAIGN.

This year comes the preliminary contest of the great political struggle of 1900. The election preceding a Presidential campaign is always fraught with much interest. Political parties strive to make the best possible showing in order to enter the greater campaign under the best possible circumstances, and with such a show of success as will most strongly appeal to the greatest number of voters.

This year's campaign will be all the more interesting because some of the new questions growing out of the recent war will become issues between the two great parties, at least in some of the states. Then too, will come the endorsement or lack of endorsement of the course of the national administration. These new issues added to the interest always exhibited in the state campaigns preceding a Presidential election will make this a lively year in politics.

And as usual Ohio will occupy the center of the stage. It is the home of President McKinley. Will his state stand loyally by him? Will its voters give him a hearty endorsement, that the whole country may know that Ohio has confidence in the President?

The Bryanites are preparing to make their great fight this year in Ohio. All the influences of the free silver forces of the country will be brought into action to turn the state over to Democracy. Should Ohio go Democratic this year it would give that party the liveliest hopes of electing a president next year.

Republicans of the Buckeye state are accustomed to hard-fought battles. They are ready for the approaching one. Whatever petty differences they may have they are solidly united in their loyalty and devotion to William McKinley. They will meet the Democrats on any and all issues and will neither ask nor give favors. Republican victory in Ohio is an absolute certainty this year. There is a determination to make it overwhelming.

The necessary legislation has now been enacted providing for an additional United States judge in the Fifth and Sixth circuits. It is believed that as soon as President McKinley signs the bill he will send in the name of Hon. Wm. R. Day for the place. Judge Day is certainly entitled to the very best under the administration.

Every kind of a Democrat, whether he believes in expansion, or anti-expansion, free silver or gold, backs up his position by quoting Jefferson. If the sage of Montecello were alive the first thing he would do would be to renounce Democracy and take his place in the front rank of the Republican party.

Pingree is becoming a very small Michigan potato.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

The Peace Treaty.

Slow progress is being made in the Senate in the matter of ratifying the treaty of peace with Spain. The advocates of ratification are pressing for an early vote upon the treaty, and are resisting all efforts at any sort of compromise that would bind the government in its dealings with the Philippine problem. The argument is still urged that the ratification of the treaty is necessary to complete the formal settlement of our dispute with Spain, and that it does not bind the country to any specific disposition of the conquered islands. Meanwhile, it is being recognized that the opponents of the treaty are doing their best to retard the taking of a vote upon the treaty. It is difficult to see what could be gained by delay in case the advocates of the treaty hold out against a compromise, for it seems likely that at an extra session of the Senate, called after the adjournment of the present Congress, the friends of ratification would be in a position to secure prompt action.

Samoan Troubles.

Interest has been aroused once again in Samoan affairs by events growing out of a struggle for the succession to the late King Malietoa. On December 21 last Chief Justice Chambers declared that Malietoa Tanus had been elected king and Tamasese vice-king, and that Chief Mataafa was disqualified. This declaration brought about an armed conflict, in which Mataafa's followers secured the upper hand. The British and American consuls endeavored to have the German consul cooperate in the dispersal of the Samoans, but he declined; and subsequently in concert with Dr. Rafael, the president of the municipal council of Apia, closed the supreme court. The chief justice and the two defeated chiefs sought refuge on a British warship, whose captain subsequently landed a force of marines, which took possession of the court and reinstated the chief justice. It is expected at Washington that the German government will promptly disavow the action of its consul. Meanwhile the situation in the islands has given rise to suggestions looking to the amendment of the Berlin treaty, under which the government of the islands is being conducted. Affairs have not worked smoothly under it, and the conviction seems to find lodgment in many minds that until the treaty is amended the affairs of the islands are likely to be a source of trouble to the governments involved.

In the Philippines.

Gen. Miller's expedition has landed on Guimaras Island, three miles from Iloilo, and without any opposition from the natives. The appointment of a Philippine commission, with Admiral Dewey at its head, has made a most satisfactory impression on the people of the United States. Dewey does not believe the Filipinos capable of free self-government. So, when the Senate ratifies the treaty we will govern them with or without their consent so long as we are held responsible by the civilized world for their conduct. If in the course of time they become fit for self-government we can grant it to them. Or if in time we find that they do not rise to the level of self-government and become a burden upon us we can arrange for their transfer to the guardianship of some other power better equipped than we may prove for colonial government.

But now the demand of the country is for a ratification of the treaty of Paris. It was signed December 10 last and laid before the Senate January 4. The country has been familiar with its terms for six weeks, and from every state legislature as from the people at large comes the demand for its ratification.

The Philippines are Spanish territory until the treaty is ratified. Does the Senate propose that they shall continue Spanish territory? Their annexation to the United States is not involved in this question. And yet the Senate acts as if it were.

Bureau of American Republics.

It is interesting to learn from the annual report of the present very efficient director of the Bureau of American Republics, Mr. Frederic Emory, that the affairs of that organization are on a better footing than for some time past. The responses to the recent requests for the payment of the annual contributions of the Latin-American countries to the support of the bureau have already resulted in the payment by five of them of a sum considerably larger than the whole amount received during the previous fiscal year. Moreover, interest is now being manifested in the bureau by certain of the members of the International Union, which have for some years refrained from taking an active interest in its affairs. One of these is the Argentine Republic, which has given notice of its intention to renew its former relations with the bureau. Another is Chili, the only country participating in the International American conference which did not become a member of the union, and which has now given ground for the expectation that it will avail itself of the privilege of joining that body. Apparently the position of the United States in relation to Latin-America has witnessed a decided improvement within the year.

Private Property in War.

Steps have already been taken in the movement to secure for private property at sea exemption from seizure or destruction in time of war. This movement was commended to the government by the weighty representations of important commercial organizations, and received the commendation of the President in his annual message. The recommendations made by him in reference to the matter have been approved by the House committee on foreign affairs, which has directed the chairman to report a concurrent resolution introduced by the late Mr. Dingley, authorizing the President to enter into coarrespondence with foreign governments with a view to secure the adoption of the principle as a doctrine of international law. This is one of the movements that ought to meet with success. There seems no room to doubt that private property on the sea should be entitled to the same protection as on land in time of war, assuming, of course, that it is not contraband of war and is not carried in violation of a blockade. The securing the acceptance of the principle would be one of the victories of peace, which, if less renowned, are often more widely beneficent than those of war.

Currency Reform.

The prospects of currency reform legislation at Washington have seemed of late to be more or less problematical. A short time ago some surprise was caused by the action of Representative McCleary in asking for unanimous consent to withdraw from the calendar the bill reported by the banking and currency committee. Subsequently the bill was recommitted upon the statement by Mr. McCleary that the vote upon the currency bill in committee had been irregularly taken, and that the action was asked so as to avoid any appearance of unfairness to the opponents of the bill. Meanwhile the House committee on coinage, weights and measures has before it for consideration a bill to define and fix the standard of value and regulate coinage, with which the advocates of currency reform propose to supplement the currency committee's bill. This bill specifically declares the gold dollar to be the standard of value. Whether it can command the necessary strength to insure its passage remains to be seen. It will at least serve the purpose of bringing the question up clearly and frankly for discussion and decision.

Our Foreign Commerce.

A notable exhibit is made by the treasury statistics of the foreign commerce of the United States for the year 1898, the preliminary figures for which, corrected to January 14, were made public last week. For the month of December the imports, of which over three-fifths were dutiable, were valued at $53,821,489, which represents an increase of over $2,300,000 as compared with December, 1897, but a decrease of over $5,100,000 as compared with the corresponding month of 1896. The exports, on the other hand, were valued at $137,847,448, which was an increase of nearly $12,200,000 as compared with December, 1897, and of over $20,000,000 as compared with the corresponding month of 1896. Most striking of all is the indication given of the increasing excess of exports over imports, the excess amounting to $83,425,959 in December, 1898, as compared with $73,547,998 in the corresponding month of 1897 and $55,206,266 in the like month of 1896.

Exports and Imports.

For the calendar year the record disclosed by the figures is a remarkable one. The total exports amounted to $1,254,925,169, which represents an increase of over $155,000,000 as compared with those for 1897 and of over $249,000,000 as compared with those of 1896. The imports were valued at $633,664,634, which represented a decrease of over $108,900,000 as compared with those for 1897 and of over $47,900,000 as compared with those for 1896. The value of the exports for the year was not far from double that of the imports. The excess for the year amounted to $621,260,535, which was greater by $264,146,719 than that for the preceding year, while as compared with 1896 it showed a still greater gain. What the figures mean in perspective may be gathered from the statement that the exports were the largest in the history of the country, while we have to go back for a period of thirteen years to find a total of imports so low as that recorded for 1898. Not the least noteworthy feature disclosed by the figures is the large excess of imports over exports of gold, which amounted to $141,841,298, whereas in 1897 the imports and exports of this metal almost balanced, the exports showing a trifling excess. Taken altogether, the exhibit is the most striking in the statistical annals of the country's foreign trade.

England in the Soudan.

The protectorate which England has established over the Soudan was expected for a long time, and therefore it will not cause much surprise in the world at large. It will be very displeasing to France and Turkey, however, but England has not been showing any special regard for the feelings of either of these countries lately. The protectorate is proper, and undoubtedly if the voice of the civilized people in the country annexed was obtained it would be found in favor of the course taken by England. The Soudan will have a firm and enlightened government from this time onward. Of course, the protectorate means annexation. France missed its chance to become part owner of all that region when it withdrew from the scheme of joint control with England in 1882, and let England proceed alone. Turkey's rights in that part of the world were forfeited long ago, and are not considered by anybody now.

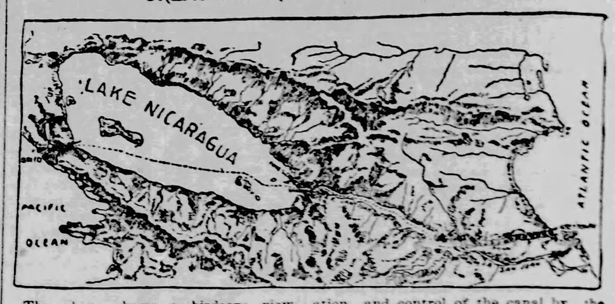
Business Situation.

Influences which make for improvement continue to dominate the situation. Conditions are all of a most reassuring character. The outlook is bright with promise and the stimulus of a new life is upon the country.

That the coming year will witness entirely new records in all of the principal lines of trade and manufacture is the confident belief of the best judges of the situation. Although it is rather early to make comparisons it is nevertheless encouraging to note that the statistics which have come to hand so far this year all show considerable improvement over the same period in 1898. There are big gains in bank clearings on top of those reported at this time last year and railroad earnings are also fully up to all reasonable expectations.

The situation is a surprising one, and it is difficult for the conservative man to realize the phenomenal growth of business in the last eighteen months. There is, however, no denying the evidence afforded by figures being constantly compiled.

GREAT NICARAGUA SHIP CANAL.



The above shows a birdseye view, looking north of the country through which the Nicaragua canal has been surveyed.

The heavy dotted line represents the portions that must be dredged. The light dotted line represents the steamship course which is ready at hand through the bounty of nature.

Action of some character upon the Nicaraguan canal question will be taken by congress at this session, but the nature of it is problematical, even to men most interested in the subject and who are following it most carefully. The conditions as to the concessions would seem to necessitate a prompt decision.

In the senate the Nicaraguan canal bill is the unfinished business, subject to consideration at the will of a majority. Senator Morgan's bill has been reported recognizing the rights of the Maritime company and is on the calendar. Several other bills have been introduced, the most important, Senator Caffery's measure, providing for the construction, operation and control of the canal by the United States exclusively. This is similar to the bill offered in the house by Chairman Hepburn of the committee on Inter-State and Foreign Commerce and which is now pending before that committee.

It is the purpose of the friends of the Nicaragua canal project in the house to take no action in that branch of congress until the senate has acted upon a bill.

Every one concerned in the passage of a bill at this session is gratified that the supposed obstacle to action which has existed heretofore in the Clayton-Bulwer treaty can be removed at any time by a friendly understanding between this government and Great Britain. It is not anticipated that serious difficulty is presented by the contentions of the rival concessions. If congress determines to adopt the President's suggestion that the canal should be constructed in the near future, it will be little trouble to satisfy the demands for fair treatment from those who have invested money in the project in good faith.

FATTEST PAIR OF GIRLS IN THE WORLD.

Living near Constantine, Mich., just north of Lagrange, Ind., are two girls, who bear the distinction of being the heaviest girls for their age in the northwest, Lulu and Flossie Sleppy, aged 17 and 15 years, respectively, are mountains of flesh in human form. Lulu, although the older, is not the heavier, weighing 397 pounds, while Flossie tips the beam at 412. There is but little difference in their height, Flossie being 5 feet 3½ inches and Lulu 5 feet 4 inches.

The history of the growth of one of the girls is the history of the growth of the other. Each, when born, was an ordinary babe in size, and weighed about eight pounds. At the age of 7 they were solid, chunky lasses, but not yet extraordinary as to size or weight. But between the age of 11 and 12 each took a remarkable "shoot" and gained in flesh at the rate of five or six pounds each week for about eighteen months, or until they reached their present monstrous proportions, since which time they have not increased in weight.

Mr. and Mrs. George Sleppy, parents of the wonderful girls, are ordinary people as to size, the mother weighing 138 pounds and the father 156 pounds. Mrs. Sleppy is a lady of much culture and refinement, pleasing personality and handsome form and figure. The parents are reticent on the subject of their fat girls. They have four children, two younger than Lulu and Flossy. The younger two are aged 6 and 9 years, respectively, although solid little misses, are not larger than many girls of their age. However, they are much the same in every way as their older sisters were at the same age, and a few years will tell whether they are destined to develop into similar curiosities.

The immense proportions of Lulu and Flossie have made necessary a large number of extra articles of wear and furniture. Mr. Sleppy is almost totally blind, having become so in a very peculiar manner. While driving a team of horses along the highway about eight months ago, without a moment's warning or the slightest feeling of pain or discomfort, he was stricken.

SHARKS' EGGS.

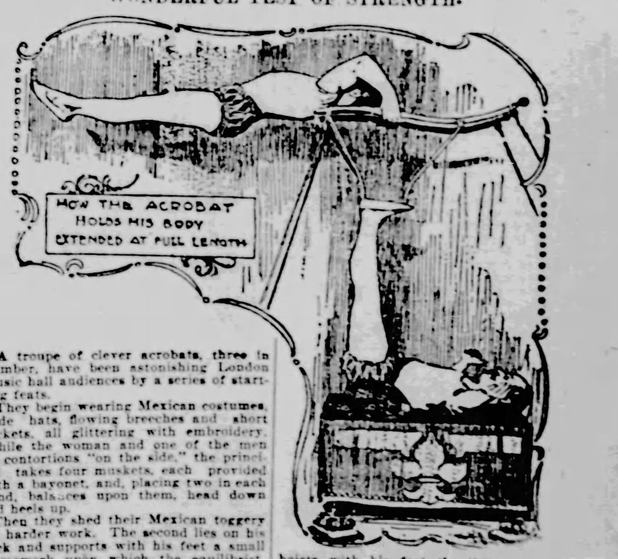
The study of the protective resemblances among animals is a field of no little interest, well illustrating the marvelous devices of nature for the protection and perpetuation of life.

This is well shown in the eggs of fishes, which seem, in some instances, to be almost endowed with a special sense, enabling them to avoid their enemies and reach the seclusion necessary to their safety, says the Scientific American.

An interesting, indeed striking, example of this is seen in the accompanying illustration, which shows the egg case of a peculiar shark and an egg case broken, the young shark being in the act of escaping. The shark which produces the egg is a member of the Cestracionidae. But a few years ago the fish was only known by fossil forms, but finally a living specimen was caught at Port Jackson, Australia, showing that this "ancient and fishlike form" had endured until to-day. Another specimen was soon discovered in the waters of California and described as gyropleurodus francisci, the singular shark whose egg-case is figured. It is a small fish, rarely over three feet in length, beautifully marked, having a horny spine in front of each dorsal fin.

The eggs are deposited in a black or dark case, which takes the form of a perfect spiral and looks exactly like a leaf of kelp or weed folded up, imitating the weed not only in form and shape, but in color. This is deposited by the shark amid the kelp beds, where it clings to the leaves by the edges of the spirals, and is thus prevented from washing ashore. A more perfect mimicry it would be impossible to imagine. When the young shark attains its maximum size within the egg, it bursts open or forces the end of the pseudo leaf and swims away to become the victim in many cases of predatory fishes.

WONDERFUL TEST OF STRENGTH.



A troupe of clever acrobats, three in number, have been astonishing London music hall audiences by a series of startling feats.

They begin wearing Mexican costumes, wide hats, flowing breeches and short jackets, all glittering with embroidery. While the woman and one of the men do contortions "on the side," the principal takes four muskets, each provided with a bayonet, and, placing two in each hand, balances upon them, head down and heels up.

Then they shed their Mexican toggery for harder work. The second lies on his back and supports with his feet a small framework upon which the equilibrist, still with his heels in the air, amuses himself piling up short bits of railroad iron, holding up with one hand himself and a piece of iron while he places it upon the pile.

The two men next hold in their teeth a swinging wire while the woman does feats upon it. This trick is not essentially new, but the troupe vary it by holding the wire while supporting their own bodies horizontally by their legs, their feet fast to perpendicular poles.

But the most marvellous feat of pure strength is the concluding one. Again the second man lies on his back and hoists with his feet the little elevated platform. The chief performer mounts the platform and gradually hitches himself over the end of it until his entire body is extended horizontally from the end, resting only on the back of his neck, supporting his entire weight by grasping the edges of the platform behind his head, in a most uncomfortable way.

The effort is tremendous. The muscles on the man's arms stand out in great bunches and his face is covered with sweat. But deeds that are done with apparent ease no longer please music-hall patrons. You have to work to make money.

Publishers' Column.

THE WHITE HOUSE COOK BOOK.

Probably the best cook book ever published in this country bears the above title. It is the most popular, has had the largest sale, and is the most practical one for general family use. The price—thousands have sold for two and three dollars each—has placed it beyond the reach of the majority of housekeepers. An edition has been issued in cheap form, with paper covers, containing the same information as the original. It is printed with large type, on good paper, and answers every purpose for use of the ordinary housewife. We have secured a few hundred copies, which we offer to Blade subscribers, postpaid by mail for 45 cents, or we will send a copy free to any person remitting us one dollar for the Weekly Blade one year, and asking for a copy of the book as a premium.

WATCHES BY MAIL.

The Blade offers its readers this season a new list of watches at less than ordinary retail prices, sent postpaid by mail on receipt of prices marked below. The list embraces two or three cheap but good watches, and three or four better grade of time keepers.

SPECIAL OFFER NO. 91.

Waltham or Elgin, $4.50.

Either nickel or gilt movement, as the subscriber may prefer. We offer these watches at the lowest prices ever known in the history of watch making. Made by the well known American Watch company, Waltham, Mass., and the great Elgin Watch Co.

The works contain all the latest improvements, 7 jewels, compensation balance, safety pinion and is stem winding and setting. Has a porcelain dial with Roman or Arabic figures, as desired. It is open face, with a heavy beveled glass crystal. The case is a high grade of compound metal, resembling silver, and is made by the famous Dueber Watch Case Co. It is of the same material all the way through, and will therefore wear uniformly and preserve its color unchanged.

The price delivered by mail is only $4.50 for a watch that will keep perfect time and last a life time. We guarantee this watch to be exactly as represented.

THE KNICKERBOCKER.

A stem winder and stem setter, having all the modern appliances known to watchmakers' art. The case is solid nickel. It is made on the celebrated thin model plan. Remember, this is not a small clock commonly called a watch by unscrupulous advertisers, but a highly jeweled nickel movement, made by one of the most celebrated watch manufacturers in America. It is guaranteed by the manufacturer, and if not found exactly as represented, this guarantee is assumed by us. A watch like this a generation ago would have cost $20, if it could have been produced, but the fact is it contains appliances unknown at that time. Each watch has been thoroughly adjusted, and will be set in perfect running order.

Price $2.00

LADIES' KNICKERBOCKER WATCH.

Stem wind and stem set; open face, nickel silver case, nickel movements, highly finished throughout. A perfect beauty. Retails for $5. We send postpaid by mail for $3.50.

WALTHAM HUNTING CASE.

This watch is the celebrated thin model watch—we mean by thin model that it does not bulge the pocket out of shape or give people the impression that you are carrying a clock movement. The case is made of two plates of solid gold, so thick that they will last fifteen years. Between these plates is a thin sheet of stiff composition metal, the purpose of which is to protect the works from damage when the watch is pressed or struck. The ring joints, thumb piece, and all parts subjected to constant wear are solid gold. The works contain compensation expansion balance, safety pinion, stem winding and pendant setting apparatus. The movement is made by the celebrated Waltham Watch Co., perfect in construction and durability. Hunting case only. Price, $15.00.

SOLID GOLD, LADIES' SIZE.

This watch is a handsomely engraved solid gold case, warranted 14k. U. S. assay. We use either Waltham or Elgin movements according to the wish of the purchaser. The works are jeweled and have compensating balance and safety pinion. This watch represents the triumph of modern expert workmanship.

Each watch is a stem winder and setter, and has a tempered hair spring. Price, $20.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that on expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are not thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons	$1.25
½ dozen teaspoons	.85
1 dozen tablespoons or forks	2.35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks	1.35
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks	2.00
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks	1.15
½ dozen table knives	2.25
1 dozen table knives	4.25

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

Address with remittance in current funds,

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS

READ THE OFFER:

These patterns will be mailed to any address for only 10 cents each. In ordering, address "Pattern Department, Blade, Toledo, Ohio," enclose 10 cents silver for each pattern wanted (do not send stamps if you can obtain other funds.) State both title and number of pattern.

Full description and directions—as the number of yards and material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

NO. 1495—WESTON WAIST.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure. One of the smartest new styles for a separate waist is shown in the Weston. The body of the waist, which reaches just above the bust, is of white

poplin, banded front and back with inch-wide black velvet ribbon. The sleeves are of the same material, trimmed in the same fashion. The square yoke, sleeve caps and high stock collar are of liberty silk, banded with the narrowest black velvet ribbon, one row of the velvet being placed so that the neck seam is hidden, which gives the collar the effect of being cut in one piece with the yoke. Where it is desirable to avoid the labor of trimming the yoke, it may be cut from tucked or corded silk, or made plain of some contrasting color. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1059—GARDENIA JACKET.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust measure. An exceedingly stylish design which will be found convenient for all seasons, according to the material selected. It is fitted with the usual seams in the back, and has a trim tailor finish of stitching and flatly pressed seams and plaits in the skirt part, and the cuffs, collar and pocket laps may be faced with velvet, or the material itself. The double breasted fronts are without darts, but shaped well under the arms. Kersey, melton, cheviot and serge are the popular materials for these garments, and jaunty jackets of these materials are made in this design to complete the ever popular tailor costume. This jacket may be used with any style of skirt. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

DO NOT FAIL to give the NUMBER of pattern, and MEASUREMENTS. It will save trouble and delay.

NO. 1502—BERENICE FROCK.

Sizes for 10, 12 and 14 years. The Berenice frock, for girls of 10, 12 and 14, shows the pretty new fashion of carrying out the color scheme of the yoke over the shoulders; that is, if the yoke is light colored the gretelles or shoulder puffs would be in the same shade. This effect gives a decided breadth to the shoulders. The slightly bloused waist is of red wool goods figured with black circle. The yoke is red silk, and the trimming is black velvet ribbon. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be given on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1280—RACHEL FEEDING BIB.

Sizes for 2, 4 and 6 years. A practical design for a plain, high-necked sleeveless bib is here illustrated. It is cut almost to the bottom of the skirt, and is rather longer, and hence is more useful than the average bib, as it can also be used for a play apron. It should be made of gingham, or of some material that will stand washing; or it may be made of table oilcloth. A well-cut bib of table oilcloth is not at all unattractive in appearance, and is economical, both in time and money. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NEW PINS FOR NEW SKIRTS.

Since it has come into fashion to have the new tailor made skirts absolutely plain and tight in the back, it has been necessary to devise some means to keep these skirts perfectly and yet artistically closed. They are made with a flat lap, which is a vast improvement on the old-fashioned flap. This is pinned with three handsome gold pins, each a little smaller than the other and made like an ordinary safety pin. The largest pin is placed at the top, the smallest at the bottom.

Some pins are ornamented with one large diamond, while others are incrusted with them.

There is one drawback to the wearing of these pins, and that is that they offer a great temptation to thieves.

THE SEVERED HEAD THAT SINGS.

One of the cleverest stage illusions of the season is explained in La Nature by M. Alber.

A big box is brought on the stage and placed on a table.

"Stupids!" cries the professor, stamping his foot; "turn it around." When this is done, a strongly fastened lid is disclosed. M. Alber throws it open.

Another box is seen within the first. This in turn is opened, disclosing a third. Another and another is opened, until one is reached a foot square, lined with black satin. M. Alber takes it out, opens it, turns it round, shows the back, raps it with his baton, lifts it high above his head. Obviously a little box. It contains a smiling human head.

"This is the punishment," says the professor, banging the box back into its place, and standing carelessly in front of the open door, "inflicted by the headsman of the suitan of——"

"Never touched me," says the head—or whatever it may be—in French.

"Eh! Wha-a-a-t!" The professor is apparently amazed. He jumps aside.

The head winks, sings, laughs, chaffs M. Alber unmercifully. He gets angry and bangs the lids of the boxes shut.

"I wish you'd open the boxes," says a stifled voice; "the ventilation is poor."

Alber tears his hair, puts his fingers to his ears. In vain. The voice begins to sing "dans cette galere," then coughs, sputters: "Air, I say."

Alber flings open the doors again, bang! bang! bang! He takes out the smallest box, raps it again, opens it. There smiles the head as before.

Now, how is it managed. The boxes are shams. Below the irregular edges is just space enough for a woman to kneel. A wax head exactly resembling her own is in the smaller box. While the professor stands in front of the open door, his confederate opens a concealed trap in the little box and thrusts her own head up through the bottom. When the doors are shut she replaces the wax head.

NATHAN B. SCOTT, ANOTHER OHIO SENATOR.

Nathan Bay Scott, who will be the new United States senator from West Virginia, will add another native Ohioan to the long list of Buckeyes on the roll of the upper house of congress. Mr. Scott was born in Guernsey county, in this state, which is called "the mother of presidents." At 11 he was a helper in a country store, getting as his wages his board, clothes and washing and the sum of $25 a year thrown into the bargain. At 16 he went to Wheeling and started on his travels. By boat he journeyed to Leavenworth, Kan., and thence by ox team to the present site of Denver. Disgusted with the prospects of the west at that time, he returned to the states and enlisted in the 88th Ohio volunteers of the Union army. He served through the war with credit, and at its close he opened a small retail store at Bellaire, O., and later became interested in the glass industry. This was the origin of his wealth, and he became at last the president of the Central Glass company of Wheeling. Of late Mr. Scott has given up his time to the care of his mining interests in the west and to politics. He has been a state senator, and for twelve years has been a member of the Republican national committee. President McKinley appointed him internal revenue commissioner in recognition of the good work he had done for the party. Mr. Scott's income is estimated at about $40,000 a month.

PORTER J. M'CUMBER, NORTH DAKOTA'S NEW SENATOR.

Porter J. McCumber, who will represent North Dakota in the United States senate for the next six years, is a native of Chicago, and is only 43 years old. When he was an infant his parents moved to Rochester, Minn., and it was there Mr. McCumber received his early education. After attending the public schools he took a course in the law department of the Michigan university. He went to North Dakota in 1880 and located at Wahpeton, where in 1881 he formed a partnership with B. L. Bogart. He is a lawyer of great ability and as an orator he has few equals in the west. He is a stanch Republican, sound on the financial question, and an enthusiastic worker for the success of his party. Mr. McCumber was a member of the territorial house of representatives and council in 1885 and 1886, and state's attorney of Richland county. The prospective senator has been a political leader in North Dakota almost since his arrival in the state, and he has numerous friends in almost all of its counties. As a legislator he was a hard worker, and was always on the side of the people wherein there was conflict between public interests and private gain. He is married and has two children.

FROM WAIST TO WRIST.

Women passengers in a trolley car one day last week saw a real novelty in the wearing of chatelaine ornaments, and are wondering if it is to become the fashion. The woman who exhibited this novelty wore a gold bangle on her left wrist, and from this dangled all the articles usually attached to a chatelaine.

There were a vinaigrette, a tablet, a pencil, a puff box, a bonbonniere, a court plaster case and jewelled heart, and these were not small by any means, or of such size as one would naturally suppose a person desiring them for bangles would purchase, but just the large, cumbersome things which dangled from the women's belts last year.

Hood's Pills

Are much in little; always ready, efficient, prevent a cold or fever, cure all liver ills, sick headache, jaundice, biliousness, constipation, etc. Price 25 cents. The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Life Saved by Swamp-Root.

The Great Discovery That Cures Kidney and Bladder Trouble.

Statistics prove that more people are brought to the grave by diseases of the kidneys and bladder than by any other disease.

For many years medical science has been trying to discover some remedy that would positively overcome these dangerous troubles.

But not until recently was the discovery made, Doctor Kilmer, the eminent physician and scientist, after years of study and research, and after test on test that never varied in the grand result, announced the discovery of Swamp-Root, which has proven itself a most wonderful cure for all diseases of the kidneys and bladder.

While Swamp-Root has proven such a remarkable success in curing kidney and bladder diseases, it has also proved equally invaluable in the cure of blood diseases, rheumatism, liver and stomach troubles and in the regulation and cure of all uric acid troubles.

Swamp-Root has been tested in so many ways, in hospital work, in private practice, among the helpless too poor to purchase relief, and has proved so successful that a special arrangement has been made by which all readers of The Blade who have not already tried it, may have a sample bottle sent absolutely free by mail. Also a book telling more about Swamp-Root and containing some of the thousands upon thousands of testimonial letters received from men and women who owe their good health, in fact, their lives, to the wonderful curative properties of Swamp-Root. Be sure and mention the Toledo Weekly Blade when sending your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

This great modern discovery is for sale at most drug stores in fifty-cent and one dollar sizes.

Gen. Eagan Was Once Court-Martialed for Gambling

If Brigadier General Charles P. Eagan should be brought to trial by court-martial for the abusive language he used concerning General Miles, it will not be the first time that he has had to face fellow officers on charges. While holding the rank of captain, commissary of subsistence, he was tried, in November, 1877, by court-martial, of which Lieutenant Colonel J. D. Wilkins was president. It was charged that, although a disbursing officer, he "habitually bet at cards for large stakes." In one of the specifications he was accused of losing $600, and "had failed, up to Nov. 15, 1877, to pay the same."

A plea of guilty was entered as to the charge of betting at cards, but exception was taken as to the specification "for large stakes," to which a plea of not guilty was entered. As to the charge of non-payment of losses, a plea in bar of trial was entered and sustained by the court. He was found guilty and sentenced "to be reprimanded in orders by the department commander."

This sentence was not approved by Colonel August V. Kautz, commander of the department, on the ground that it might set a precedent which would require a reprimand as the proper sentence following conviction of a violation of the regulations forbidding gambling by disbursing officer. Colonel Kautz took the ground that a more severe sentence should have been imposed.—New York Herald.

HOW DEWEY GOT COAL.

Chicago Times-Herald:—Admiral (then Commodore) Dewey left Hong Kong with the bunkers of all his ships filled with coal. In addition he had a collier, the Nashan, which carried about 3,000 tons. This was the limit of his coal supply when war was declared, and it was assumed by many that he would not be able to get any more coal until it was sent to him from the United States. But one afternoon a big, bluff-blowed steamer was sighted coming in the Boca Grande is an uncertain, hesitating manner, as though her captain had lost his way. He came straight on, however, and was finally overhauled by one of our steamers on picket duty. The vessel proved to be the British collier Cyrus, Captain Simmons commanding. And when the jovial captain was comfortably anchored off Cavite he made a vigorous protest against the trouble he had had in getting "captured." His owners had ordered him to go to Manila and allow himself to be taken as a prize by Admiral Dewey.

"And blast my eyes," he said, "if I weren't been cursing hoth Corregidor Hisland for two days waiting for a bloomin' Yankee to come halong and take me hinto port."

The Cyrus had about 4,000 tons of good Welsh coal, so that Admiral Dewey felt a little easier in his mind about his fuel supply. Soon afterward the British steamer Nyanza came along with 5,200 tons more, and finally a sailing ship, the Ellen A. Read, came in from Australia with 3,000 tons additional. These three cargoes had been shipped or bought after the opening of the war, thus showing that coal could be obtained if it was properly sought for.

THE RED CROSS NURSE.

The praises of the admirals are ringing everywhere;
The plaudits of the generals are singing in the air;
The men who sailed to sink their lives within the Merrimac
(So dauntless they that even death was fearful to attack)
The hard marines whose tactics knew no signal for retreat
In the rain of Mauser bullets and the drench of tropic heat,
The rough and ready riders in their resolute advance,
All make our daily records a continuous romance.
We cry them in our stories; we chant them in our verse,
But let us sing a stanza for the Red Cross army nurse.

She is in the foremost battle, she is in the rearmost tents,
She wears no weapon of attack, no armor of defence.
She is braver than the bravest, she is truer than the true,
She asks not if the soldier struck for red and white and blue,
She asks not if he fell beneath the yellow and the red;
She is mother to the wounded, she is sister to the dead.
The victors' cheers ring in her ears, but these she does not heed;
The victims' moans and dying groans are given as her meed.
And many a suffering hero chokes his blind and sullen curse
To smooth it to a blessing for the Red Cross army nurse.

Work on, O noble army, and the crown of crowns be yours,
Not always shall destruction be the glory it endures.
It is coming, it is coming; you are helping on the day
When we learn the nobler action is to succor, not to slay.
It is coming, it is coming; you are aiding it along,
When we know the feeblest nation is as potent as the strong.
It is coming, it is coming; you are bringing it to pass,
When the ships have shed their armor and the fortresses are glass.
But in the stormy waiting till the armaments disperse
Our blessings on the flower of war—the Red Cross army nurse!

—J. E. V. Cooke in Youth's Companion.

A Fatal Mistake.

"Madam," said the wanderer, "perhaps you may notice that I am almost discarnated." "I don't talk Dutch," said the lady as she slammed the door. "And I sized her up for Boston-raised," sighed the wanderer, and plodded on.—What-to-Eat.

SOUTHERN PEACE SONG.

Peace in the sunlight and peace in the rain;
Peace where in meadows the wild doves complain;
Peace on the fields that were red with the slain—
Peace in God's country forever!

Peace where the great ships have roared with their guns—
Where the battle smoke darkened all stars and all suns,
Peace in the hearts of the brightest ones—
Peace in God's country forever!

Peace where no lightnings from heaven are hurled;
Where the loved flag of freedom forever's unfurled—
Where the red stripes of glory shall garland the world—
Peace in God's country forever!
—Atlanta Constitution.

TRAVELING WITH HOBSON

Innocent but Unprotesting Victim Helped Carry Out the Illusion.

"I happened to be on the same train with Lieutenant Hobson when he went over to Annapolis a few weeks ago," said the Washington correspondent of a Baltimore newspaper, "and, as I have known him for a number of years, he beckoned me to take the seat beside him in one of the day coaches for the ride to Odenton, where he changed for Annapolis. Quite a number of the men in the car recognized Hobson, as did several old ladies traveling in company, and they rubber-necked around in their seats a good deal to study the countenance of the man who sent the Merrimac to the bottom. Hobson didn't seem to take much notice of the neckstretching on the part of the passengers, but when an old lady in the seat directly in front of us turned herself deliberately around, and for the space of a good two minutes gazed hard and square right into his countenance, with the aid of a pince-nez, which she held with a very firm adjustment, he turned to me with an amused look and said:

"'I've been thinking lately of growing a beard, with the idea of avoiding all this sord of thing, but, then, the newspapers have published all manner of more or less weird portraits of me with a beard on, and so I'm afraid the growing of a beard wouldn't serve my purpose. While I was in New York a few days ago I went to see Cyrano de Bergerac, and I bethought me that if I could only grow a nose I might make out all right for a disguise until folks forget all about that very much overdone and exaggerated Merrimac business, which they no doubt will soon enough. Seriously, I don't think it was an achievement for such a big fuss to be made about. I had a chance, that was all, and I took it, and I'm very certain that there's not an officer in the United States navy who wouldn't have welcomed the same opportunity, and perhaps have performed the task better than I did. The worst of it is, I've been accused a good deal of having acquired what's known as the big head since the thing came off, whereas, as a matter of fact, I'm just as humble, Uriah, as any man that walks in shoe leather.'

"The people on the car continued to screw around in their seats to look at Hobson until the train stopped at Odenton and he got off to change cars, and when the train started on again for Baltimore they kept right on screwing around to size me up. I felt perfectly guiltless of having done anything to warrant all of this attention, but they continued to gaze at me hard until the train was almost at the Baltimore station. Then a huge, farmer-looking man, with a hand on him as big as a ham, got up from his seat a few rows ahead of me, paraded down to where I sat, held out his fist for me to grasp, and made a 'speesh' for the benefit of all the rest of the passengers in the car.

"'Podner,' he said, 'I didn't edzactly hev th' nerve t' mosey up an' interrupt we'en you was a-talkin' with your brother, much as I wanted t' grab him by the hand, but you-all will do jes' as well. Jes' let me feel th' paw of th' brother of th' men thet plugged up th' harbor of Santee-aigo.'

"Now," continued the correspondent, "I'm onto 55 years of age, and I'm smooth-faced, red-faced and chubby-faced, and what hair I've got left is practically white, and I look just about as much like Lieutenant Hobson as I do like Claude Melnotte—but what was the use of protesting? The whole carload walked past me in single file and asked me to let 'em shade the hand of Hobson's brother. I could only grin and stand it. If a man has so much fun as I had in the enjoyment of reflected greatness, what must his pleasure be when he's the real thing, I wonder?"

DOUBT AS TO EXACT DATES

Difference of Opinion as to When Ohio Became a State.

There is some doubt as to the exact date upon which Ohio became a state, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. Ohio never was a separate "territory," being a part of the Northwest territory. In 1801 the people living in the portion of the Northwest territory now embraced in the state of Ohio called a convention to frame a state constitution for the district which had set up a claim to statehood under the provisions of the fifth article of the ordinance of 1787. That convention met in Chillicothe on November 1, 1802, and on Nov. 29 completed its work. The constitution thus framed was not submitted to the people, but was declared ratified by the convention itself.

On Feb. 17, 1803, the United States congress passed an act admitting Ohio into the union as a state, said act becoming operative upon the assembling of the first state legislature at Chillicothe. The first state legislature met at Chillicothe at 10 a. m., Tuesday, March 1, 1803, and both houses immediately organized.

Thus there are three dates about which opinions may differ as to the exact in tial period of Ohio statehood. They are Nov. 29, 1802, when the constitution was perfected and ratified; Feb. 17, 1803, when Congress passed the act admitting Ohio, and March 1, 1803, when the leg slature assembled and organized. The latter date appears to have the greatest claim, in view of the language of the act of Congress and the organization of the legislature. The two houses of the legislature met in joint session at 11 a. m., March 3, 1803, to open and declare the result of the ballot for governor. Edward Tiffin was declared elected, receiving 4,564 votes. There were no ballots cast against him. At one o'clock p. m. the same day Governor Tiffin was sworn in at a joint session of the two houses of legislature by Judge Meigs.

A Conference in the Study.

Dr. Thirdly—I am in dire straits.

Dr. Fourthly—What is the trouble?

Dr. Thirdly—It was decided some three months ago to cut down my salary.

Dr. Fourthly—Ah, that was unfortunate. But why not cut down your sermons?

Dr. Thirdly—That is exactly what I did, and they seemed to like the arrangement so well that they immediately cut down my salary again. Now, what am I to do?

Dr. Fourthly—Try making your sermons longer and see if they won't propose a compromise.—Chicago News.

Preternatural Suspicion.

When her husband left their pretty home that morn ng he printed the accustomed kiss upon her lips with a rubber stamp.

She thought of this circumstance more and more as the day wore on.

"Is his love growing cold?" she finally asked herself, and shuddered.

Women make themselves very unhappy by being so suspicious.—Detroit Journal.

Deathless Devotion.

Kind Father—My dear, if you want a good husband marry Mr. Goodheart. He really and truly loves you.

Daughter—Are you sure of that, pa?

Kind Father—Yes, indeed. I've been borrowing money of him for six months, and still he keeps coming.—New York Weekly.

Tales I've Heard Told

"I tell a tale as 'twas told to me."—Sir Walter Scott.

Price, $1 and 50 cts., but To You, 15 cts.

"A book that sparkles from start to finish."
"A collection of good stories well told."
"The book that everyone must know about this season."

[EXTRACT FROM PREFACE]

"This book is for the pleasant people of the world—may their tribe increase. It will be appreciated by folks who are on good terms with themselves and the rest of mankind, who like the world into which they were born, who believe that life is worth living, and are glad that they live in the greatest country on earth, and in the best age the world has ever known. The best people are those who love humor; the worst, those who indulge in sarcasm. This book is for the former. It aims to present humor without sarcasm—the honey without the sting. It isn't intended to instruct, but to entertain and please. Be good to yourself and read it. Be good to your neighbor and tell him how you like it."

This book sells for $1 cloth, 50 cents in paper. But the publishers of this journal have secured to you the chance to get a copy for the mere nominal cost of 15 cents. The first edition is to be distributed to readers in this way in order to introduce and thoroughly popularize the book at once. Address, inclosing 15 cents,

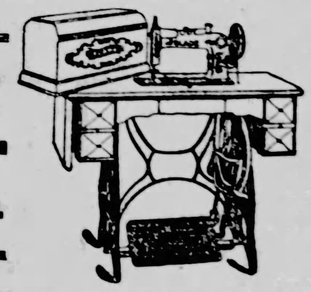
THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO.

Our Great Offer.

For 15 cents, stamps or cash, sent at once, you will receive a copy of this book. Don't delay, or the chance will not be open to you. Address as directed.

THE TOLEDO BLADE SEWING MACHINE.

This machine and Weekly Blade (one year) only..... $18.00



Every Machine guaranteed to give satisfaction or money refunded.

Improved High Arm, Perfected. Warranted for Ten Years.

We claim for this machine all the good points found in all other machines. All old and wornout ideas have been discarded, and it has been improved and simplified until it stands at the head of the list of high grade machines. All wearing parts are of best steel, and case-hardened. Every part is adjustable, and all lost motion can be taken up by simply turning a screw. It has the simplest and easiest threading shuttle made. It has an automatic bobbin winder, which winds the thread as even as upon a spool. Self-setting needle and round needle bar. Each and every machine is made under personal supervision, and can be relied on as absolutely perfect. Our machine has every known improvement.

It is one of the quietest and lightest-running machines now made. It uses a straight, self-setting needle. Any one can easily operate it. The instruction book is profusely illustrated, showing how to do all kinds of fancy work with attachments. It is so simple a child can use it.

The woodwork is unique and attractive in style, and substantially made from well-seasoned and carefully selected material. Its elegant finish and rich trimmings are in good taste and harmonize with the excellent workmanship of the machine. We supply either ock or black walnut.

Far more handsome and ornamental than the ordinary woodwork, it is at the same time of equal durability, utility and good finish.

Try one, and if not found exactly as represented (10 days' test being allowed) we will refund you the money paid on it and stand freight both ways.

STRONG—DURABLE—SPEEDY.

Each machine is supplied with the following outfit: 1 Hemmer and Feller (1 piece), 12 Needles, 6 Bobbins, 1 Wrench, 1 Screwdriver, Oil Can filled with oil, Cloth Gauge and Thumb Screw, and a Book of Instructions. These extra attachments sent free with each machine: 1 Tucker, 1 Hemmer Set (4 widths and Binder), 1 Ruffler with Shirring Plate, 1 Braider (foot and slide), 1 Thread Cutter.

The book of instructions is profusely illustrated, and answers the purpose of a competent teacher.

Machines are shipped by freight.

WARRANTY.

We not only claim that our Blade Sewing Machine is one of the best in the world, but substantiate our claim by giving a guarantee with each sewing machine we send out, agreeing to duplicate any part that proves defective in five years free of charge (shuttles, needles and bobbins excepted), thereby proving conclusively our confidence in our Blade Sewing Machine.

We guarantee this machine to be even better than the Blade Sewing Machine of three years ago. It is built on entirely new and improved principles, and is far in advance of the regular sewing machines now on the market. It is $4.00 cheaper than any sewing machine now offered with newspaper subscriptions, and worth double. Each machine is in perfect working order when shipped, and is accompanied with printed instructions and a complete set of tools and attachments.

Every machine will be shipped by freight unless otherwise directed, and we are prepared to fill orders promptly. Remember, the purchaser pays the freight when received. We never prepay freight. Be careful to give your shipping address very plainly, as well as your postoffice address.

Remit current funds, by draft on New York, Chicago or Toledo, or by Postoffice or Express Money Order, or currency by registered letter. Address

THE BLADE, TOLEDO, OHIO.

Special Notice: In ordering needles or any repairs, always give the number of your machine or the year in which you bought it.

LAST TEN-DOLLAR NOTE.

Swift the dear dolicious dimples come and go when Maude smiles;
Swifter still my heart's a-thumping as she spins her gracious wiles;
But the swiftest thing I know of in this world of fleeting folk
Is the way your money leaves you when your last lone ten is broke.

Sadly slow it quits your wallet, back there comes a lot of change—
Ever watch a summer lightning playing on the horizon's range?
Ever try to time the fancies of a maiden—any one?
There are lame and halt and distanced by the race those dollars run.

Reasons why a maid was smiling, reasons why a maiden frowned—
Mortal men these mysteries have given up as too profound;
But a deeper, darker question: Where's the sage or saint who knows,
Or who has the dimmest notion where the foresaid money goes?

I bet Maude that she daren't—well, I'm happy that I yet
Yet I've designs of your business, none of mine to count the cost;
She shall have the gloves this evening, though I go through flame and smoke!
Anyhow, I'll see those dimples—though—my—last—ten—is broke.
—Philadelphia Record.

PERSIMMONS FARM.

Bucks Countian's Experiment in a New Line of Agriculture.

Michael Koplin, a thrifty farmer of Riegelsville, in the upper end of Bucks county, is harvesting hundreds of bushels of persimmons, from which crop a unique one for Pennsylvania—he will derive a handsome profit. When hard times struck the farmers some years ago, and nothing was to be made in ordinary lines of agriculture, he got the idea of growing persimmons, and set out several hundred trees. These he has carefully cultivated, and they are now bringing in the returns. His orchard is laden down with golden fruit, and people for miles around come to see it.

Recent frosts have touched the persimmons, giving them their full flavor. Various opossums and raccoons have descended on the orchard to feast, and Farmer Koplin catches these marauders and sends them off to market, along with the persimmons. He has a big force of strippers at work to strip the trees. The fruit is packed in ordinary peach baskets and sent to Philadelphia, New York, Trenton, Jersey City, Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton, where it finds a ready sale. The prices range from 75 cents to $2 a basket. The bulk of the persimmons are eaten raw, but many people buy them to pickle and preserve.

So successful has been Mr. Koplin's experiment that he contemplates setting out many more trees in the near future.—Philadelphia Record.

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Inventors With Many Patents.

During the last twenty-five years the government has granted twenty-five inventors more than one hundred patents each, the whole number being 4,084, the average 163. Thomas A. Edison stands at the head of the list. He has received 311 patents; Elihu Thompson, 204; Francis H. Richards, 240; Edward Weston, 174; Charles Brush, 135; Charles J. Vanderpoel, 134, and George Westinghouse, 121.—Chicago Record.

Czarina's Exquisite Piano.

Czar Alexander sent to Stuttgart for a suitable present for the Empress on the occasion of her recent birthday celebration. He selected an ornate upright piano for her boudoir. The case is in the richest Louis XVI. style, and the front board is jeweled with brilliant gems. The black keys are made of real ebony and the white ones are covered with mother-of-pearl. German experts say it is the most costly and exquisite instrument of its kind ever made.

THE HOUSEHOLD

EDITED BY EMILY S. BOUTON

"FLASHES THE FIRELIGHT UPON THE DEAR FACES,
DEARER AND DEARER AND ONWARD WE GO,
FORCES THE SHADOW BEHIND US, AND PLACES
BRIGHTNESS AROUND US,
WITH WARMTH IN THE GLOW."

HONESTY WITH OURSELVES

In Joaquin Miller's new volume of poems he shows the sterling truth and honesty of Walt Whitman's character by the following story: When the news came of the death of Garfield a publisher in Boston asked from various authors a tribute of sorrow for the dead, offering a check of $100 as an earnest. Mr. Miller and John Boyle O'Reilly went to Whitman and wrestled with him for a poem by which he could earn and receive the money. It was in vain.

"I am sorry as the sorriest," said Whitman; "I sympathize with the great broken heart of the world over this dead sovereign citizen. But I've nothing to say."

"And so," writes Mr. Miller, "persuade as we might, even till past midnight, Walt Whitman would not touch the money or try to write a line. He was poor, but bear it forever in testimony that he was honest, and would not promise to sell that which he felt that God had not at the moment given to sell."

In other words he was true to his inner, diviner self or what men call conscience. He would not attempt for money to put into a hymn of sorrow what his soul did not sing, however great his need. The "good gray poet" was a man who saw far into the mysteries of life, and recognized the value of what it had to offer. To be honest with himself was more to him than money or glory.

I often wonder how many of us realize what honesty with oneself means. It involves so much more than any outward seeming to the world. We allow the personal desires, likes, or prejudices to blur or confuse our judgment, so that our decisions are often colored and untrue, even in the face of an inward protest which, if heeded, would lead us aright. And we have done this so much that we have blunted our own powers of perception as to what is true and honest with regard to our own action.

The greatest dishonesty with oneself is that perpetrated in the guise of devotion to the higher things of life. Under the subtle leading of the thought of self-sacrifice for humanity, the duty close at hand may be lost sight of and left undone; responsibilities that are sacred be neglected and the result, in reality, be a spiritual deterioration, none the less certain because its possibility has been lost sight of in what seems the glory of accomplishment. There is danger in the duty of another says an ancient teaching, and there is nothing more true.

We need, then, above all things to be honest with ourselves; to be sure of the purity of the motive-power of all of our actions, no matter what their outward seeming may be. This done and we may walk onward unfearing condemnation, but ready to enter whatever door of opportunity that may open in our pathway.

It is surprising how quickly the feeling of love for, and pride in, the country which is theirs only through adoption, develops in the children of the various nationalities who are brought together in our public schools. They learn very soon the stars and stripes mean something which they are to respect, and without understanding why, they are ready to range themselves under its folds as protectors.

The Spectator of The Outlook tells of a conversation with some teachers in the crowded tenement portion of New York, which illustrates what I have been saying. Here is a paragraph that tells the story:

"Do you not have trouble with so many nationalities?" the Spectator asked, hoping to hear something still more interesting. "Oh, we hang the flag over the school platform," was the answer, "and have the regular exercise of saluting it, and the children become very patriotic indeed. They will not own, in most cases, that they are not Americans." "Yes," said the other, "I often ask, 'Will the German children in the room stand up?' The Germans are more wedded to their Fatherland, apparently, than other immigrants, for a few—though not by any means half—of them usually rise to this invitation. 'Now let the Italian children stand' generally brings no response at all, though the school is crowded with them in my district. But when I end up by saying, 'Will the American children stand up?' the whole school rises joyfully.

And then she goes on to say that it is wonderful how soon these little folks learn the language of their adopted country, strangely enough using their own as little as possible. Yet it is not so strange when one considers the mental atmosphere in which they find themselves during th school hours, that of a belief by both teachers and American scholars that this is the land of freedom and of opportunity. "They will be better citizens," said the teacher earnestly, "and better men and women, as Americans, than they would have been if they had stayed at home and grown up in Hungary or Italy or Syria; I am sure of that. And I feel quite content to spend my days in teaching them their opportunities—for America is the open door of opportunity to them."

And the Spectator agreed with her. So must we all, and yet there was never a time when it was so necessary for the nation to be true to itself, to hold fast to the principles of truth and justice which have made it what it is. It is as easy for a people to be betrayed into unworthy doing through pride and greed as for an individual, and to-day there is need for every citizen, either with or without the right of suffrage, to look carefully into the character of those who are to occupy the high places of the land and guide national policy. Everybody can take part in this, if not in action, yet by helping to educate public sentiment through the power of thought and words. This present time may be the vital one of a choice by the nation of its future course, whether it will use its wonderful powers in the service of humanity or devote them to selfish purposes of gain and aggrandizement. Each and every one of us has a deep interest in the decision.

EMILY S. BOUTON.

LIFE'S GATEWAYS.

Those who have read this book speak of its helpfulness. It can be had now, with a year's subscription to the Blade, by sending $1.25 to Miss Emily S. Bouton, Toledo, Ohio. All who can do a sum in arithmetic will see how much they can save by this combination of desirable things.

The Cozy Corner

Dorothy has her opinion of Hobson—who seems to have no choice:

Don't you all hope that the next hero claiming public attention will not be so kissable as Hobson? If he is, we hope the government will provide that for every woman he kisses, he shall salute in like manner sixteen men.

What folly is this? Four hundred and seventy-five women kissed with neatness and dispatch at one reception by this prince of kissers, and he wasn't the only man in the crowd either. Four hundred and seventy-five women; wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and sweethearts willing, perhaps anxious to be kissed in public by a stranger who would never dream of allowing their near friends and relatives to caress them in public.

Does it mean that the American standard of womanhood has been lowered? God forbid.

It seems to me to be a piece of folly, a madness from which every one will so far have recovered within two years that you will not be able to find a woman who will "'fess up" that she kissed Hobson. It is too bad, but Hobson, the hero, is dead—kissed to death—a pleasant way to die possibly.

Scientists tell us of electric waves, thought and sound waves, etc. Anybody can tell you that "measles, inflooenzy an' things—even hoffin' is ketchin'," contemplate the possibilities of a kissing "wave" with all its horrors sweeping over our fair land.

Most American men, however, I believe prefer to kiss "the dearest girl in the world," whether mother, sister, wife or sweetheart in the evening when the lights burn low, or steal a parting kiss in the morning to keep them company through the day and feel that each kiss makes them a little better, a little stronger, brings them a little nearer the better life; a little nearer heaven.

These men and women can only pity Hobson, the kisser, who kisses against time old, young, pug-nosed and Grecian, cross-eyed, spectacled, fat girls, lean girls, tall ones, short ones, pretty or ugly, and when tired and worn out seek his couch and dream it all over again, wake in the morn with a dark brown taste in his mouth and a feeling down deep in his heart that he has made a fool of himself, but that he will repeat the folly the first opportunity. Poor fellow pity him, he needs it.—Dorothy.

Promptly on time comes Laura Golden's promised review of "The Christian." If others who have read this book have found a different meaning, or have been differently impressed with it, we hope they will give us their ideas, as in this way, such as have had no opportunity of reading the book will get the most help.

The author of "The Christian" sees greed, hypocrisy and oppression on every side, and sends John Storm, the curate of a London hospital, single-handed, to do battle with the world, the flesh, and the devil. He is weak, pitiably so, erratic, and withal altruistic.

The plot is merely the love story of this John Storm, and Glory Quayle, a young Manx girl, who went to London to study nursing, and who eventually become an actress. She is warm-hearted, fickle, impulsive and bewitching; ignorant of life, and inordinately fond of admiration and pleasure.

The strongest scene is where John Storm defends Polly Love, a nurse who has been led astray by one of the directors of the hospital, and who is expelled, while her betrayer is retained. How one rejoices when John gives the hypocritical Canon Wealthy a good tongue lashing.

John becomes filled with disgust for the whole worldly crew in charge of the hospital (or is it disappointment because Glory refuses to listen to him and leaves the hospital to "gang her ain gait?"), and enters an anglican monastery, spending his days and nights in prayer, fasting and penance, while Glory is on the road to ruin. He leaves the monastery, and takes up mission work in the slums, only to meet with persecution and defeat, again. In the meantime Glory has become the most popular actress of the day. The story ends with their marriage and John's death.

One cannot help wondering what he would have accomplished had there been no Glory Quayle, and what would have become of Glory had there been no John Storm.

The story is interesting, but at the same time it is disappointing and depressing. It is a striving and a striving, and an ending in nothing.

Surely Christianity is more than that? —Laura Golden.

This friend presents a new view of the consequences of allowing children to have too much freedom in certain ways:

"Dear mothers, do not allow your children to enter society too soon. It makes them old men and women too soon. They lose the modesty and retiring disposition that is so lovely in children, and often it happens that their vanity is so fed by the praise given them for being graceful dancers, or actors in parlor charades, that they are led to long for a life on the stage.

"Now, do not think that I would deprive our children of any reasonable pleasure, for I am living only to make the lives of my three bright-faced boys as happy as I can, but I think we should do all we can to interest them in something that will not have any bad effects in their lives when they become men and women.—Auntie Diogines.

Dear friends of the Cozy Corner, I would like to ask what you think about disarming the nations and doing away with war? I am sure you would all be glad if it could be done, but a great many persons say that it is impossible. I think it can be, and will be, done, not now, maybe, but all discussion on the subject will help to hasten the day.

I think the nations could have an international court, something like our supreme court, made up of members from every nation; this court to decide all questions between nations.

Any nation refusing to submit to a decision of the court could soon be brought to terms by the other nations refusing to do business with them.

It would be so much better than to be taking the largest, healthiest and brightest of the young men of every nation to butcher each other, to die of disease, or to come home crippled and broken down in health.

In regard to Hobson, I think it time for the honor of our sex, that we let the world know that we are not all idiots, and do not approve of so much kissing.

To the sister who signs her name No Hope, you have my sympathy. Make sure of the friend who sticketh closer than a brother, and when this short life is over, all will be well.—Mattie Bailey.

Dear Cozy Corner friends, having read and profited by your splendid letters for a long time, I feel it my duty, as well as my pleasure to write when I can be of any service to you.

Now I have a chance to help Annie B., Kansas, by sending her the recipe for making peanut candy: Shell the nuts and rub off the red skin on them. Boil together 1 cupful of molasses, 1 cupful grated chocolate, 2 cupfuls sugar, 1 cupful boiled milk, butter the size of an English walnut, and 1 tablespoonful of flour. Boil slowly till it will break when dropped into cold water. Place the nuts over the bottom of a well-buttered tin and pour the syrup over them.—Mrs. Hattie M.

Dear friends, I am an interested reader of the letters to the Cozy Corner, but never quite decided to write one myself till I read H. A. F.'s letter in The Blade.

H. A. F., I heartily agree with you in everything you wrote. I wonder how husbands and wives can place their family troubles before the eyes of the public as some do. In my opinion, all difficulties should be settled between the two alone.

When I see a woman exposing her husband by telling his faults, it lowers her in my estimation.

Dear, dear friends, hide one another's faults by telling of the good deeds, but never mentioning the bads ones.

No Hope, take your troubles to the Lord. There is where I find rest.—Pansy.

Cozy Corner Friends:—May an old maid, of twenty-six, enter your corner for a moment, just to say a few words? I believe married life entirely too sacred to even discuss the faults of husband, or wife, to one's most personal friends. One would hardly think where there was love, unadulterated, there need be many skeletons in the closet?

If I were to claim a husband, I would not feel at all backward in asking for a nickel, would expect to understand the financial circumstances well enough so as to know how much to spend. The husband belongs to his wife, why not his money?

To the lady who thinks we are old maids from choice, I will say, my observation teaches me that more times our ideal has not been found. I would not give a cent for a house plant for a husband.—Armanda.

Fashion:—The indications are that very small sleeves will be used in all dresses and jackets the coming season. It is a little early to decide the fashion for next summer, but you will be safe to make your dresses in the way that is most becoming to you. There seems to be a growing tendency in this direction, and a becoming garment is far less noticeable, even if it is not just in the latest style.

You could prepare your underwear now, if you choose to make it instead of buying the ready-made garments that are offered at less than the cost of the material. In this way you could be able to give your whole time to the dressmaking, at the last minute.

Bella asks "Why do merchants sell so much cheaper after the holidays, than before?" Really, Bella, I cannot tell you, unless it is because they prefer to have the money than the goods, and have made profit enough before, and during the holidays, so they can afford to sell somewhere near the cost of the goods to them. You had better consult some merchant who has a "discount" sale on.

Politician:—Do I not think Schley will be our next President? If you will consider it a dead secret, and promise never to tell, I will tell you just exactly what I think about it—that is, I think I do not have a single thought on the subject, and am quite willing to wait for further developments. Meantime, I am quite satisfied with McKinley.

BLADE COOK.

Chicken Pancakes.

Make a batter of 2 well beaten eggs; 1½ cupfuls of milk; 2 cupfuls flour; 1 teaspoonful baking powder and a pinch of salt. Heat to boiling ½ pt. each of water and chicken gravy; add 1 tablespoonful each of flour and butter; let it boil a moment and stir in 1 pt. of finely chopped chicken. When the pancakes are baked, spread some of the prepared meat upon each one, cover with another cake and keep hot till all are ready to serve.

Savory Baked Potatoes.

Peel as many small potatoes as will cover the bottom of a large baking dish. Sprinkle over them ½ teaspoonful of dried, powdered sage; ½ tablespoonful of salt; ¼ teaspoonful pepper; 1 onion sliced very thin and 1 tablespoonful of butter cut in small bits. Pour over all 1 cupful of milk or soup stock and bake in a moderate oven for forty minutes.

Graham Fruit Mush.

Stir into 1 qt. of salted, boiling water 1½ cupfuls coarse, Graham flour. Boil 20 minutes then stir into it ½ teacupful of rich milk and 1 teacupful of chopped figs, dates or canned fruit.

FANCY WORK AND HOUSE DECORATION.

Another very pretty and useful gift, suitable for any season is a

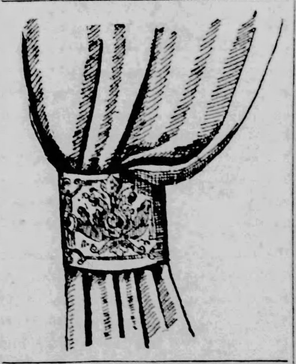
Tooth and Nail Brush Holder.

Take a piece of ribbon 9 inches long and 2½ inches wide. Line it with oiled silk for 7 inches of the length, then over seam the sides together as far as this lining reaches, leaving two inches for a flap to fold over the top. Stitch through the middle of the ribbon, lengthwise, making two compartments, one for the tooth brush and one for the nail brush. The oiled silk prevents the brushes from soiling the ribbon, when they are wet.

Initials, or a vine in embroidery can be placed on the front of the ribbon.

Curtain Cuffs.

The upholsterer artist here gives us some ideas in what he calls curtain cuffs, something of a departure in the draping of curtains. These "cuffs" may be made from tapestry, and if in cotton tapestry the expense of them would be very trifling, or they may be made of print fabrics—cretonne, chintz—or illuminated leather. Some very good effects may be obtained by using these cuffs in connection with a valance of similar character, with curtains of a solid color. Thus the valance and cuffs would lend a decorative touch to the arrangement. A valance having wide cuffs of the same material would give a dressy effect, the curtains being in the same general tone of color, without the design features, which the cuffs and valance would present.



THROUGH ASIA

One of the most thrilling narratives of travel through an unknown country in the interests of science is that of Dr. Sven Hedin, recently published in two volumes by the Harpers. Following close to the story, In the Forbidden Land, which also tells of adventures in Central Asia, this one under title of Through Asia acquires added interest.

Dr. Hedin had for many years been studying the geography of this part of the world and preparing himself for his great undertaking. He made two preliminary journeys into Persia, in which he accustomed himself to Asiatic travel and learned one or two of the most important languages in order to facilitate his project.

After the last one in '90-'91 he returned to Sweden and interested King Oscar in his purpose. The latter gave him his full support, and there were one or two private individuals who encouraged him in practical ways to go on with his effort to explore these least known regions of the world.

The intense interest of his story begins with his winter journey over the Pamirs. In a few words he tells where these are located. "On the borderlands," he says, "between East and West Turkestan the earth's crust is thrust upward into a lofty plateau or mountain knot of gigantic dimensions. From it radiate some of the most stupendous mountain-ranges in the world, eastward the Kiven-lun, southeastward the Himalayas and between these two the Karakorum mountains, stretching into Tibet. From the same elevated region the Tianshan highlands branch off towards the northeast, and in the opposite direction, toward the southwest, the Hindu-kush mountains. It is here that several authorities place the home of the first parents of our race. The traditions of a dim and distant antiquity declare that the four sacred rivers of Paradise mentioned in the Bible, had their origin in these sublime altitudes. The people of High Asia still revere the Pamirs, calling them the Roof of the World, and regarding them as the coign of vantage from which the towering mountain giants look ahead over the whole world."

This was the unknown region Dr. Hedin resolved to explore. That the attempt was full of danger he was well aware. Among other things he was warned never on any account to separate himself from his caravan during the march. "If at such a time a buran (snow-hurricane) were to sweep down upon me I should be hopelessly lost. It would be impossible to get back to my followers, even though they were no more than a dozen paces away. The air becomes thick and black with blinding flakes. Nothing can be seen—nothing; you have hard work to see even the horse you ride. To shout is useless. Not a sound can be heard, not even the report of a rifle." It is easy to see what would be the result should a traveler lose his way under such circumstances.

The loftiest height of the Pamirs is Mustaghata, which is 25,000 feet high, and the summit of which he tried to reach but had to turn back after attaining 20,000 feet. Yet he learned a great deal regarding the climate and the wonderful glaciers of this region, of value to science.

The following winter he spent in Kashgar, a curious old city so remote from those who read this story as to seem but a freak of the imagination. Yet Dr. Hedin tells of educated men who live there, of Consul Petrovsky, a thorough man of science, who is studying the archaeology of that country with the intent of giving the world some day the benefit of his painstaking observations. He describes Adam Ignatieff, a Roman Catholic Pole who was there as a missionary, and Father Hendricks, a Dutchman by birth who had been in Asia 25 years, spoke 12 different languages and followed closely and with interest the affairs of the world, being in reality a man of wide culture, but as shut away from the scenes of action as if dead.

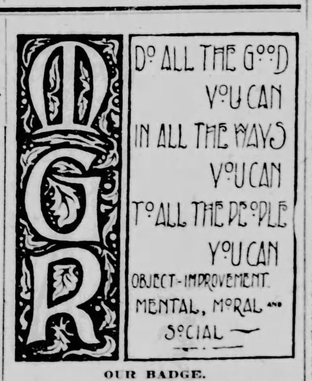
In February, 1896, Dr. Hedin started eastward, and in April he crossed the dreaded desert of Takla-makan. His description of their progress across, of their suffer-

LOST IN THE DESERT.

ings and the peril in which their lives were during a part of it is indeed a thrilling story. For miles and miles over the dreary sand waste, finally without water, they traveled, the camels giving out one by one, and the men exhausted and dying. His own suddenly-taken determination not to die in the desert, wonderful as it was, a miracle he calls it, was what saved his life. It fills the reader with intense excitement to follow that terrible journey to the moment when he stood upon the brink of the little pool of fresh water, that renewed his life.

Later, he re-crossed the desert to the river Tarim and on to Lop-nor, a lake region full of mystery. He reached Peking in 1897 after such tremendous struggling as to be almost beyond belief.

EMILY S. BOUTON.



OUR BADGE.

Every member of the Merry-Go-Rounds should have a badge. It costs but 15 cents now, and the time is not far away when no more can be bought.

These winter evenings are just the time for telling stories and dreams, as we sit around the fire, and our New England Girl has had a very remarkable dream, which she tells us to-day:

For the past month I've been watching the postoffice like a cat does a mouse, and pouncing upon the Blade every week to see if my last letter about the letter circles had found its way into print, and when I failed to find it in yesterday's paper I began to fear that some dire calamity had befallen it. I hope not, for its non-appearance will delay the circles until this appears and those to whom I have promised I would write for more members to complete their circles, may think I haven't done so.

I studied over the question all the evening and was trying to find a way out of the difficulty when I suddenly found myself pacing the platform of "Dreamland Station" with thousands of other restless mortals like myself, but no one seemed to have any particular object in view. The tracks were blocked with trains and most of them had only one car between two engines facing in opposite directions. The engines were puffing, the whistles were blowing and the conductors were frantically calling "all aboard!" This strange and noisy scene aroused my curiosity and I determined to investigate. So, having entered the station and pursuing a ticket to "Dreamland," I began to play the agent with questions and received the following information: "These trains have all been chartered by N. E. Girl for her letter circles and some have been waiting more than a month but she says they cannot proceed without the required number of passengers, all of whom must be from different states. Doubtless you wonder at the arrangement of the locomotives and so did I until I heard the explanation which is, that there were a few in nearly every organization who always delighted to pull in the wrong direction, and these engines had been provided for the use of any such among the circlers.

That train on the first track is being held for passengers from the seacoast, California, Florida or any of the Southern states. The one next to it cannot leave without passengers from Colorado, Wyoming and Montana.

The conductor of train No. 9, is anxiously watching for the M. G. R., known as the "Doctor," for his passengers refuse to proceed without that individual. The young man standing on the platform of the car with the strange hieroglyphics on the outside isn't quite decided whether to re-enter and wait until it is filled with passengers interested in short hand, or step into the next which is waiting for more teachers.

When it becomes known that the car on our right as been chartered especially for the Bible class I do not think it will be obliged to wait long for more occupants. The literary car stands right behind and its occupants are classified according to the magazines they take. Methinks this will prove a benefit to those whose means are limited and who are deprived of the advantage of a library.

The trains marked "G. C." receive on board all who wish to join the "General Correspondence Circles." That long freight train, drawn by three locomotives followed by a car twice as long as any ordinary one labeled "Post Script" in large letters, was designed for the special enjoyment of those individuals who requested a circle for "Old Bachelors and Old Maids." The agent said that N. E. Girl had lots of sympathy for this circle and had tried to insure a pleasant journey for them as they, poor mortals, had no life companions to help them over the rough places.

I was on the point of asking about the throng pacing the platform outside when he told me that most of them were there to see friends off, while others were undecided what train to take—as they hadn't yet learned that one could board several of these trains at the same time even though they were going in opposite directions. A few were skeptical now, but would soon join their companions when they learned it was a success.

He said those in the waiting room had arrived after all the seats reserved for their respective states had been engaged and that they were waiting for the tracks to be cleared and more trains to be chartered so they could have a chance.

The next thing I knew my husband was telling me that it was long past breakfast time and I was eating awfully hungry. Then I realized that it was a dream, a true one, as I send it to you hoping that the next mail train east will bring enough passengers to enable me to send some of the letter circles on their way.—New England Girl.

Address (Mrs.) Geneva Sieg Ballard, box 14, Millington, Franklin county, Massachusetts.

"Faith," our first member from Mississippi, tells of a beautiful custom in her neighborhood:

I wish to thank you, one and all, for the help and comfort I have received from your letters during the sad and sorrowful months of the year just past, in which three dearly beloved ones of mine have been called to the "beautiful beyond," and I am striving to live so that I may sometime meet them again where there will be no partings.

Here, we observe every Saturday as Memorial day for our dead, not confining ourselves to the one national Memorial day, and, while we remember those who are gone, we do not forget to pray for our brave soldiers.—Faith.

"Belcher" comes to represent the Lone Star state, since Lavelette has been sent to Manila with the other brave boys who are helping to guard the stars and stripes in that new territory of Uncle Sam's. Come often, Belcher.

I want to become a member of your band, and so I enclose my fifteen cents for a badge, hoping they are not all gone.

I have enjoyed your pleasant letters for a long time, and I have received much help from Miss Bouton's talks. I want to be a member of the Merry Go Round, and certainly will promise to accept and try to live up to the motto to the best of my ability.

I am teaching school in a retired country place and depend, to a great extent upon The Blade for amusement.—Anna L. H.

What better resolution, or motto, than this, could we have?

Some months ago I ventured to knock for admittance at the door of your circle, and met such a warm welcome that I resolved I would come often, but have been so busy that my resolution has not been carried out. But although silent, I have been an appreciative member, and it has been my aim to live up to the motto.

With the new year, I will turn over a new leaf and try to do better. I made only one resolution this year, and that was that I would try to do something every day to make some one else happy, and for my motto:

Speak a shade more kindly than the year before;
Pray a little oftener; love a little more;
Cling a little closer to the Father's love,
Life shall liker grow to the life above.

Wishing you all a happy, prosperous New Year, I will say good-bye.—W. Va. Girl.

The Vision of Sir Launfal.—To put much in as few words as possible, I will say that I think the theme of this beautiful poem lies in the words, "true charity." His (the author's) purpose is to teach us what true charity is, and in what way it benefits us. Charity, in its truest sense, is the love and generous feeling we have for a fellow-being when we have recognized universal brotherhood with all living creatures.

Lowell, I think, wishes us to understand that charity is not giving some trifle of worldly goods, be its valuation as an article much or little.

But to give with this our love and our sympathy, or, as Lowell himself puts it,

"Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare."

We find that he also tells us that when, in true charity, we give to a fellow-being, he is not the only one thus benefited. We are told that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Sir Launfal heard a voice softer than silence saying,

"Who gives himself with his alms feeds three—
Himself, his hungering neighbor and me."

Charity to man is the gate whereby men may enter the temple of God. When Sir Launfal gave money to this leper he gave with a sense of duty. When he gave bread, and gave with it his love and sympathy, what is his action called? Charity. For he said:

"Mild Mary's Son, acknowledge me,
Behold through him I give to thee."

He now realizes that in feeding this leper he feeds himself and the Savior. He who gives the most of worldly goods is not always the most charitable. In the prelude to the first part Lowell very artistically describes a June day. What of its nature can be more beautiful than this oft-quoted stanza:

"Joy comes, grief goes, we know not how;
Everything is happy now,
Everything is upward striving;
'Is as easy now for the heart to be true
As for grass to be green and skies to be blue,
'Tis the natural way of living."

Another place he speaks of the birds singing, and says:

"He sings to the wide world
She sings to her nest,
In the nice ear of nature
Which song is the best."

Will some of the M. G. R.'s please answer the poet's question?—"Nellie."

I would like to say a word about the "Vision of Sir Launfal," if I may. I think it a grand poem—rich in art, in imaginery and in thought. There are few verses in which the thought is not intensified by a picture. What in literature is more beautiful than his description of a June day. Let us have some answers to the question in the fifty-sixth line. I say, "his mate's" song, for it is in keeping with the thought of the poems—charity.

Alas! how much giving is done as Sir Launfal gave the gold, no kindness and no love goes with the gift. If it is only a mite, a cup of cold water given in His name how much gladness it brings to the human heart and how much more to Him who sees all things."

Again, we do not need to go over land and sea in search of our life work. It lies right around us, and we need only to reach forth and do "the next thing" day by day.

"Thou can'st not to thy place by accident,
It is the very place God meant for thee;
And shouldst thou there small scope for action see,
Do not, for this, give room for discontent,
Nor let the time thou owest God be spent
In idly dreaming."

—Joe March.

Henrietta: Your poems are too long to use in this department. Thank you for the kind words you send to the editor.

Did Illinois Girl send her name and address with her letter of January 8? If so, it was lost from the envelope before it reached Miss Prudence. Will she please send it again.

It often happens that addresses are lost when written on a separate piece of paper. Please write them on your letter beside your nom.

OUR WONDER COLUMN.

1.—WHO WAS HE?

He was an American, and an inventor of various things to be worked by steam power. He worked against every difficulty and was reduced to poverty by his experiments, which were eminently successful, and were adopted and used by the governments of many countries. His claims against the United States government amounted to $76,300, which was paid in full to him in 1846. W. P. E.

2.—BEHEADING AND CURTAILING.

As a whole I express a longing for something; behead me and mean to gain by just means; curtail and I am a part of the body; behead again and I am the name of a city of Noah. Curtail my whole and I am a measure of time; curtail again and I am an affirmative answer; again, and I am a pronoun.

Old Dan Tucker.

3.—ORNITHOLOGICAL.

P O R W E
C P O I L
H E R N B
W M O J O
I C T D A S P R E
A E O V I
L W T E R
K I R N H
N G F I S

Spell up, down, right, left, diagonally, one space at a time, using no space twice for one word, and get the names of as many birds as you can.

Agnes.

Agnes sends the names of fifteen birds in her answer. As this is a little more difficult than our usual questions, more time will be allowed for answers. The answer will be given March 2.

4.—ARITHMETICAL PROBLEM.

The sum of the perimenters of the square; the diagonal of the square; the inscribed square of circle and the diagonal of inscribed square is 100. What is the side of the square circumscribing these figures? W. R. Sober.

5.—QUERY.

Who can name the four boxes that are said to rule the world? W. P. E.

6.—QUOTATION.

Who wrote:

"But God is God, my darling,
Of the night as well as the day.
And we feel and know that we can go
Wherever he leads the way."

C. M. B.

Answers to Puzzles Given Jan. 12.

1.—Albrecht Durer.
2.—R, Pole, hoed, Rosalia, helix, Dix, A.
3.—Ipsah, Paca, Acra, Hask.
4.—A stole the cow, B the horse, and C the sheep.
5.—Robert Newman was the "friend's" name.
6.—Colton wrote:

"Pettifoggers in law and empirics in medicine have held from time immemorial the few simple to a vast estate, subject to no alienation, diminution, revolution nor tax—the folly and ignorance of the people."

Chat.

Answers and new work received from W. P. E. G. W. B. Marley Cranford, W. H. Sober and W. H. Pulver.

For the tapering plank problem, Marley Cranford sends the following: Area of distance from narrow end to vertex, 2.02 square feet; area of one half plank, 7.5 square feet; area of distance from vertex to where the plank is cut, 10.7 feet. 2.02 is to 10.7 as 110.25 is to the square of the distance from vertex to where the plank is cut. The square root is 19.76 feet. 15 plus 10.6 equals 25.6, distance from wide end to vertex. Then 25.6 minus 19.76 equals 5.84 feet, the distance from wide end of board, where the cut is to be made. Answer, 5.84+ feet.

C. M. B.: In writing the figures it is best to use the numerals 1, 2, 3, etc., instead of writing one, two, etc., as the double letters are usually written as you gave them.

Our Young Folks.

WHAT HAPPENED AT OUR HOUSE.

Mamma did not like cats one bit, and the strangest part of it was that she did not even like kittens. So we children never had owned any, although we hugged every neighbor's cat that we could get hold of, and often talked over by ourselves how perfectly lovely it would be if we could just have one for our very own.

We had been forbidden to feed stray cats about the door, so when we found one that seemed especially needy, we coaxed it off down the alley, and brought it as many delicacies as we could induce cook to give us. All this did not satisfy our longing to possess a kitten of our own, but it had to suffice us for a long time. But at last something happened.

It was a very cold week during the winter, and the snow was several feet deep. One day as we were coming home from school, just as we reached the corner of our yard, Dick espied something gray in the snow. He stopped to look at it, and then called to the rest of us excitedly.

"Why, it's a kitten," he exclaimed, "and I believe it's frozen in the snow!"

We all exclaimed in horror at this, and were at his side at a bound.

It was a kitty, sure enough, and she did not move nor make any noise.

"She must be dead," Dick repeated, while the rest of us wrung our hands helplessly over such a calamity.

"Run for mamma," Dick suddenly commanded, and I darted away, glad to be able to do something.

Mamma was the one to go to in trouble of any sort, and I reached her quite out of breath.

"O mamma, there's a cat out in a snow drift and she can't move, and we're afraid she's frozen. Won't you come out and see?"

Then for the first time I remembered how mamma disliked cats, and my heart gave a big jump. But dear me, I might have known better, for mamma was always ready to help anything that was in trouble, and almost before I had finished speaking she had put on her overshoes and a shawl and was ready to go with me.

As soon as we reached the kitty, mamma began digging away the snow, and pretty soon she lifted the kitty out. It seemed quite stiff, but mamma said, "I don't think she is dead," and then how glad we all were.

We took her into the kitchen, wrapped her in a blanket, and after awhile she gave a faint little mew. We children fairly danced about at that, and some of us watched her all the rest of the afternoon. By night she was able to take a little milk, and then we felt sure she was going to get well.

Somehow nothing was said about where she was to live after she grew quite strong again, but we children made the most of our opportunity, and cuddled and loved her and fed her dainty bits that we saved from our own plates.

After the kitty began to feel quite well again, mamma paid no attention to her. She sort of acted as though she didn't know there was a kitty around. But one night when we children were all having a good time with Muff, as we had named the kitten, I heard papa say to mamma, "Just watch those children," and mamma answered, "Yes, I have. I didn't suppose children could think so much of a cat." I would have felt quite glad over mamma's answer if she hadn't said cat in such a tone at the end.

One evening a little later as we were all sitting before the grate fire, kitty came in and curled down at papa's feet. In a little while she began to purr contentedly, and papa smiled at mamma as he said, "it sounds quite homelike, doesn't it?"

Mamma smiled a little, but did not say anything. I began to wonder if papa didn't like kittens pretty well.

After awhile kitty got up and began playing with the balls on mamma's wrapper. She boxed the balls around, and tumbled the cutest little somersaults and danced around on her back legs, till we all began laughing so heartily that she ran behind the heavy curtains and looked out at us in wonder. Then mamma tied a string to an empty spool and gave it to me so that I could coax her out and we all watched her as she played with it a long time.

I looked at papa when she did that, and he nodded and smiled to me, and I smiled back, but we didn't say anything.

After that we watched the kitty play very often in the evening. It was great fun.

One day we children sat out on the back doorstep, and cautiously began a discussion of the possibility of kitty's being allowed to make her home with us.

"Oh, mamma'd never!" Dick exclaimed with firm conviction.

The others began looking forlorn over this emphatic assertion, and I was despatched to bring Muff out so that we might enjoy her as much as possible before we were obliged to give her up.

I knew that mamma was lying down, so I tiptoed in softly. I looked in the kitchen and in the library, two of Muff's favorite places for napping, and then I went on into mamma's bedroom. I peeped in quietly, and what do you suppose I saw? Why, mamma was lying on the couch, and curled down beside her was Muff, fast asleep, with mamma's hand stroking her gray fur softly.

I didn't wait to say a word to mamma, but I rushed out to the children, and dancing before them, I exclaimed, "Mamma's cuddling the kitten! Mamma's cuddling the kitten!"

"Then she can stay," we all exclaimed, and in we rushed pell-mell, where we hugged mamma and then the kitten in the ecstasy of our joy.

So Muff became one of the family, and we all love her.—Julia Darrow Cowles, in Youth's Companion.

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every educated citizen.

SAMOA.

Followers of Mataafa Start a War for the Throne.

Auckland, N. Z., Jan. 19.—Samoan advices just received here say that Chief Justice Chambers on December 31, declared Malieto Tanus to have been elected king in succession to the late King Marietoa. The chief justice also announced that Tamasese had been elected vice king. Chief Mataafa was disqualified. The consuls of the United States and Great Britain and the captains of the German ship Falke and the British warship Porpoise met the German consul, who refused to recognize Malieto Tanus and declined to co-operate in the dispersal of the Samoans who thereupon assembled in large numbers at Mulinu, armed themselves and surrounded the municipality. Malieton Tanus and Tamasese mustered about 2,000 men, well armed but supplied with defective ammunition. The British and American consuls endeavored to avert hostilities but they commenced on January 1. Malietoa Tanus and Tamasese fought bravely but 500 of their followers were captured. Then, disheartened and outnumbered the two chiefs sought refuge on the British warship and their followers sought protection under the guns of the Porpoise.

Mataafe's loss was 61 men killed and wounded, and Malietoa Tanus lost 12 men killed and wounded.

The foreign residents were placed under the protection of a detachment of men belonging to the British ship, and Chief Justice Chambers and his family went on board of her.

The followers of Mataafe looted and burned Apia, destroyed the plantations and pillaged considerably in the country.

The consuls later decided to recognize Mataafe as chief of a provisional government, pending the receipt of instructions from the powers. Afterward Dr. Rafael and the German consul closed the supreme court, declaring that the power was vested in them. The British and American consuls then appealed to the captain of the British warship Porpoise, who landed a force of blue jackets and Chife Justice Chambers under their guard took his seat.

Mataafa held aloof from these last developments. The excitement continues.

Blame the German.

London, Jan. 19.—All parties at Apia, a special dispatch from Auckland says, unite in condemning the German consul for the fighting which has taken place between the rival kings. It is pointed out that in violation of all agreements, the consul accompanied Mataafas forces, when the claimant invaded the town and encouraged the opposition to Malietoa Tanus.

When the British and American consuls were informed as to the situation they adjourned the court and locked the building. The German consul then demanded the keys, which were refused him. He then broke down the doors, removed the locks and replaced them with others. He afterwards brought the German municipal president into the chamber and the latter went upon the balcony and shouted to the British and American marine assembled on the square:

"I am the supreme court. I am the chief justice."

The crowd replied with jeers and the British consul demanded the keys of the building, which were refused.

A Scotchman named Mackie thereupon climbed to the top of the building and hoisted the Samoan flag, while the British and American consuls and a number of marine invaded the building, forced the doors open and pushed the German consul into the street.

Then the two consuls, formally and legally, according to the special dispatch, opened the court and issued a warning against any further interference with its jurisdiction threatening to arrest and imprison any one attempting to do so.

Matters, the dispatch concludes, are now quiet, and the German consul remains in his consulate.

Cruiser Philadelphia to Go.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The navy department has prepared orders for the cruiser Philadelphia to proceed to Samoa at once, to represent the United States interests there.

The Philadelphia is due at San Diego next Sunday from Acapulco. Meanwhile, if any vessel more quickly available can be found—one of Dewey's fleet, for instance—it will be ordered at once to Samoa to answer the urgent appeal of the United States consul there. The commander of the Philadelphia will act in conformity with the instructions of the United States consul, so far as these instructions are in line with the treaty of Berlin, which, the United States contends, must be literally enforced until amended. It would take the Philadelphia about sixteen days to make the run from San Diego to Apia, touching at Honolulu for coal.

SAMOAN TROUBLE.

No Further News Expected for Several Days.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Inquiries made by the State department show that no further advices can be expected from Apia before the latter part of next week. This is based on the presumption that the reports will come on the regular line of vessels that travel between Auckland and Apia, but of course there is a possibility of some private sailing craft making the trip if events of sufficient importance to demand an immediate report have occurred there since the last steamer sailed. By Friday or Saturday of this week the British warship which recently left Wellington should arrive at Apia, and thus make it possible for one or the two British vessels which then will be in port to be used for the conveyance of mail advices to Auckland.

Such exchanges as have taken place up to this point between the three government parties to the treaty of Berlin in relation to the uprising in Apia have been rather unofficial in character, and have been confined pretty closely to expressions of a willingness to deal with the matter soberly and stand by the terms of the treaty in its adjustment. With this disposition exhibited there is, as already stated, every reason to believe that this Samoan affair will yield to ordinary methods of diplomacy unless something has happened in the meantime at Apia to aggravate the situation.

POSTAL CLERKS

Will Attempt to Have the Gorman Bill Passed by Congress.

New York, Jan. 23.—The postal clerks are raising a large fund to push through the Gorman bill in congress. That bill means a classification of the men who get salaries of from $600 to $1,400 into eight divisions, and its provisions give in some cases an increase of $200 or $300.

A subscription blank is going the rounds of the New York postoffice which reads: "I hereby agree to pay $10 for legitimate expenses in connection with the passage of the Gorman bill, providing the seniority amendments are not stricken out."

In the case of poorer clerks $5 is accepted now and $5 any time before the 15th of next month.

So far a great many signatures have been appended, though there is some question among the employes as to the amount of money needed. It is not understood why a fund of several hundred thousand dollars should be needed for "legitimate" expenses in connection with a bill in congress.

Profitable Employment

We want to engage the services of an energetic man or woman to represent

The Ladies' Home Journal

To look after renewals and to secure new subscribers. A good agent can earn not only good pay, but will share in the $11,500 to be divided—April 15th—among the best agents.

The Curtis Publishing Company
Philadelphia, Pa.

EAGAN'S TRIAL

He Will Not Exercise Official Duties Pending Trial.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The detail of the court-martial which is to try Commissary General Charles P. Eagan on charges growing out of his statements before the war investigation commission last week, in which he severely attacked General Miles, was made public at the war department last night. The court is made up of thirteen army officers, of whom Major General Wesley Merritt is at the head, and a judge advocate, and it is to meet in this city on Wednesday, the 25th inst., or as soon thereafter as practicable, this qualification being necessary because a number of the members are at distant points and will require some days to adjust their affairs and reach this city. All the officers composing the court save one, Major General Butler, are of the regular army. Adjutant General Corbin returned early in the evening from his trip to New York, where he went to witness the departure of the transport Grant for Manila, and came to the war department about half past eight o'clock, and then signed the formal order promulgating the detail of the court, which is as follows:

War Department,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, Jan. 18, 1899.

The following order is published for the information and guidance of all concerned:

War Department,
Washington, Jan. 18, 1899.

By direction of the President a general court-martial is appointed to meet in this city at 10 o'clock a. m. on Wednesday, the 25th day of January, 1899, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of Brigadier General Charles P. Eagan, commissary general of subsistence, United States army, and such other persons as may be brought before it.

Detail for the court:

Major General Wesley Merritt, U. S. A.

Major General James F. Wade, U. S. volunteers.

Major General Matthew C. Butler, U. S. volunteers.

Major General Samuel M. B. Young, U. S. volunteers.

Brigadier General Alexander McW. Pennington, U. S. volunteers.

Brigadier General George M. Randall, U. S. volunteers.

Brigadier General Jacob Kline, U. S. volunteers.

Brigadier General Richard Comba, U. S. volunteers.

Colonel Peter C. Hains, corps of engineers.

Colonel George L. Gillespie, corps of engineers.

Colonel Charles R. Suter, corps of engineers.

Colonel Francis L. Guenther, Fourth artillery.

Lieutenant Colonel George B. Davis, department judge advocate general, judge advocate of the court.

The court is empowered to proceed with the business before it with any number of men, not less than the minimum prescribed by law.

Upon the final adjournment of the court the members will return to their proper stations.

R. A. ALGER,
Secretary of War.

The journeys required of members of the court in complying with this order are necessary for the public service.

By order secretary of war.

H. C. CORBIN,
Adjutant General.

Washington, Jan. 19.—The charges and specifications in the court-martial of Commissary General Eagan have been drafted and are now in the hands of the President. The charges are conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline. The specifications quote largely from General Eagan's statement attacking General Miles before the war investigating commission.

Eagan Will Retire.

New York, Jan. 20.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says:

"Whatever may be the outcome of the Eagan court-martial, it may be confidently stated that Eagan's career as commissary general of the army is ended.

"His successor—Col. John F. Weston—has been selected. Orders have been telegraphed him at New York, directing him to report for duty at once to the secretary of war. This means that he is ultimately to take charge of the commissary general's department. He cannot be nominated to the senate to succeed Gen. Eagan until the latter has been dismissed or relegated to the retired list.

Col. Weston, who is to be commissary general, is one of the best-known officers of the subsistence department. He was the chief commissary officer during the Santiago campaign. He has been in the subsistence department since 1875, having previously served in the line of the army."

To Try Eagan.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Quarters have been secured at the Ebbitt House for the general court martial appointed for the trial of Commissary General Eagan, and it is expected that it will begin its sessions there next Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock in accordance with the order convening the court. The question as to whether the sessions of the court shall be open or secret lies entirely with the court itself. The almost universal rule in such cases is for open sessions, and it is confidently expected that there will be no exception made in the Eagan court martial. Proceeding on the assumption that the sessions will be held with open doors, the officers of the war department are making arrangements for the attendance and accommodation of representatives of the press at the hearing.

Serious Fire.

New York, Jan. 19—The great six story store of A. J. Cammeyer at 310 to 318 Sixth avenue, occupying the greater part of the block between Nineteenth and Twentieth streets, was almost burned out last night. Other occupants of the building who suffered heavy losses were K. L. Carey & Co., dressmakers; Madame Poole, corset manufacturer; Hare, manufacturing jewelers; Nathan Frauskopf, manufacturer of infants' clothing; S. Rauh & Co., overshoes and leggings, and F. W. Dodge & Co., proprietors of the New York building material exhibit and Alexander Mack, shoes. The loss is estimated at $750,000; fully insured.

POLITICAL.

Quay's Fight.
Senator Quay Still Unable to Muster Enough Votes to Elect.

Harrisburg, Jan. 24.—The sixth joint ballot for United States senator resulted as follows: Quay (Rep.) 106, Jenks (Dem.) 80, Daizell (Rep.) 15, Irvin (Rep.) 3, Stewart (Rep.) 8, Huff (Rep.) 5, C. W. Stone (Rep.) 8, C. E. Smith (Rep.) 1, Tubbs (Rep.) 2, Rice (Rep.) 2, Grow (Rep.) 1, Markle (Rep.) 2, Downing (Rep.) 2, Widener (Rep.) 2, Benjamin T. Hale (Rep.) 1. Total 238. Necessary to choice 120. Paired 12, absent without pairs 2. No election.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 24.—The first formal vote for United States senator to succeed John L. Mitchell, was taken in each house of the legislature to-day. The combined vote resulted: Quarles, 40; Stephenson, 26; Babcock, 17; Cook, 18; Webb, 10; Ryan (Dem.), 21. The only change on the Republican side from last night's caucus was by Anderson from Quales to Cook. Immediately after the session the Republicans resumed their caucus, and took eleven ballots without a change.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 24.—The legislature took one ballot for senator to-day. Aiken, 58; Hayward, 43, two more than he had yet received; Webster, 10; Thompson, 7; Lambertson, 2; Reese, 2; Hinshaw, 1; Weston, 4, a gain of one; Foss, 2; Adams, 1; Cornish, Vandusen, 1 each. It had been intended to have two ballots, but it was voted down, 74 to 54.

Salt Lake, Utah, Jan. 24.—The legislature took two ballots for senator to-day and adjourned until to-morrow. The last ballot: King (Dem.), 18; McCune, (Dem.), 21; Cannon, 7; Judge Bertch, (Rep.), 14; Sutherland (Rep.), 1; absent, 1.

Augusta, Me., Jan. 18.—Eugene Hale was re-elected senator by concurrent vote of the two branches of the legislature yesterday afternoon, and to-day at noon a joint conference confirmed the election. Many Republicans refrained from voting, as an expression of Mr. Hale's course on expansion. Several alleged that they voted for Mr. Hale only because he was the party nominee.

Boston, Jan. 18.—Each branch of the legislature balloted for United States senator yesterday, and Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, the Republican nominee, received heavy majorities in both houses. The vote resulted as follows: Lodge (Rep.), 169; Bruce (Dem.), 72; Winfield (Pop.), 2; Porter (Social Dem.), 2.

Hartford, Conn., Jan. 18.—The two branches of the Connecticut general assembly met in joint convention to-day and declared General Joseph R. Hawley elected United States senator for six years.

St. Paul, Jan. 18.—In joint session of the legislature to-day the journals of both Houses were read, giving the vote cast by each yesterday, and the speaker formally declared Cushman K. Davis elected to succeed himself in the United States Senate.

Jefferson City, Mo., Jan. 18.—At noon to-day the legislature in joint session formally elected Francis M. Cockrell to his fifth term in the United States Senate. The vote stood: Cockrell, 103; Kerens, 61.

Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 21.—Porter J. McCumber, Republican, was elected United States senator in the joint assembly yesterday.

CLEARING THE PATH.

England Will Not Hinder Nicaragua Waterway.

New York, Jan. 23.—The Tribune's London correspondent writes: The Nicaragua canal question has been taken up by Secretary Hay and Lord Salisbury in a practical rather than a controversial spirit. It is not probable that either of these statesmen is anxious to attempt to unravel the tangled skein of diplomacy with which the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been enmeshed in the course of fifty years. They will prefer to make a fresh start in a spirit of mutual accommodation and good feeling. The practical business now in hand is that of adapting the Clayton-Bulwer treaty to new conditions affecting the interests of both countries.

The commercial interests of the world and the highest ends of civilization will be promoted by the construction of a waterway through Central America. One country may be more directly interested than the other in the completion and control of the inter-oceanic canal, but both England and America will benefit commercially by the opening of the waterway, and neither can have any adequate motive for hampering or retarding a great work which will contribute to the progress and civilization of the world. On this high ground the two governments can meet and devise practical measures for facilitating the construction of the canal, and for providing for its control and maintenance as a neutral waterway open at all times to the shipping and navies of all nations. This is a policy which they are now endeavoring to carry out in an enlightened and progressive spirit worthy of the genius of the Anglo Saxon race.

The Panama enterprise has warned British ministers that a private company cannot undertake so great a work without a vast increase of financial outlay. They are convinced that the success of the Nicaragua canal as an engineering and financial undertaking will be impracticable under the management of a private company whereas with the credit of the United States government behind it the bonds will be floated above par and the enterprise be relieved from the burdens of high rates of interest. On this account the British government will readily consent to alter the treaty so as to allow the United States to construct the canal and to be responsible for its regulation and control.

ICE BRIDGE BROKE.

And Many Persons Had Narrow Escapes at Niagara.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Jan. 23.—Never in the history of Niagara has a more thrilling incident been witnessed than occurred yesterday afternoon, when, in plain view of thousands of Sunday visitors on the banks, the ice bridge in the gorge started to move out while from fifty to one hundred people were either out on it or in the act of crossing. About 4:15 o'clock the entire mass of ice in the center broke loose and started down stream. When the people on it noticed the motion or observed its upheavals, they hurried to the shore. The majority of them had little trouble in reaching the solid ice in the eddies, but there were narrow escapes and considerable leaping of crevasses. Furthest out when the ice commenced to move was a party of boys, but being fleet of foot they quickly reached the shore. All were off but three persons, a man and a woman, who were running toward the Canadian side, and a man close to the New York side. On these three the attention of all was directed.

—The words of praise bestowed upon Hood's Sarsaparilla by those who have taken it prove the merit of the medicine

Sword for Schley.

New York, Jan. 21.—Rear Admiral Schley was presented last night with a jeweled sword by his brother members of the Royal Arcanum at Carnegie Music hall. After receiving the sword with a graceful speech, Admiral Schley buckled it on and shook hands with several thousand persons.

Beet Sugar Plant a Go.

Mt. Pleasant, Mich., Jan. 23.—The beet sugar factory here is assured. A big and enthusiastic meeting was held and the entire 3,000 acres of beets guaranteed. A committee to arrange with capitalists was appointed and it will visit Detroit and other cities at once. People here are jubilant.

THE EXCELLENCE OF SYRUP OF FIGS

is due not only to the originality and simplicity of the combination, but also to the care and skill with which it is manufactured by scientific processes known to the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. only, and we wish to impress upon all the importance of purchasing the true and original remedy. As the genuine Syrup of Figs is manufactured by the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. only, a knowledge of that fact will assist one in avoiding the worthless imitations manufactured by other parties. The high standing of the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. with the medical profession, and the satisfaction which the genuine Syrup of Figs has given to millions of families, makes the name of the Company a guaranty of the excellence of its remedy. It is far in advance of all other laxatives, as it acts on the kidneys, liver and bowels without irritating or weakening them, and it does not gripe nor nauseate. In order to get its beneficial effects, please remember the name of the Company—

CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal.
LOUISVILLE, Ky. NEW YORK, N. Y.

AMERICAN FARMS.

Total Exports for 1898, $850,000,000, Which Breaks All Records.

Washington, Jan. 23.—More than $850,000,000 worth of farm products were exported from the United States last year. This has been determined by the statistical experts of the treasury department, who have been computing the actual exports of farm products for different years.

In 1897 the agricultural exports aggregated $730,000,000; in 1896, $664,000,000, and in 1895, $545,000,000.

In no earlier year in our history has the exportation of products of agriculture been as large as in 1898, the total for the year surpassing by more than $100,000,000 that of the great export years 1891 and 1892.

Breadstuffs, cotton, provisions, live animals, tobacco and fruits supplied the great bulk of the $850,000,000 worth of farm products which went abroad in 1898, breadstuffs being the largest in value, cotton second, provisions third, animals fourth and tobacco fifth. Of breadstuffs alone the exports of the year were $65,000,000 greater than those of 1897, and were more than double in value those of 1895.

Of provisions the year's exports were nearly $25,000,000 in excess of those of 1897, while cotton exports were considerably in excess of those of 1897 and 1895, but slightly below those of 1896.

Besides these great classes, the smaller items of fruits and nuts, hay, hops, seeds, vegetables, oilcake and vegetable oils, eggs, feathers and many other articles of this class added to the receipts for agricultural articles exported.

All the articles of great agricultural exportation show a marked increase for the year compared with preceding years. Corn for the first time passes the 200,000,000 bushel line in the calendar year's exportations. Oatmeal, in which our exportation has rapidly increased during the past few years, shows a total of 85,000,000 pounds, an increase of more than 25 per cent over 1897. Wheat shows a round total of 150,000,000 bushels, against 110,000,000 bushels in 1897 and 85,000,000 bushels in the preceding year, while the value exported in 1898 exceeds $130,000,000 against less than $100,000,000 in 1897 and less than $80,000,000 in 1896, thus more than double those of 1896.

Farm Exports of a Decade.

The following table shows the exports of agricultural products in each calendar year during the past decade, the figures for December, 1898, being estimated:

1888	$491,381,608
1889	599,507,055
1890	628,779,597
1891	731,069,762
1892	712,539,832
1893	619,135,634
1894	573,684,333
1895	545,715,881
1896	664,995,372
1897	730,425,428
1898	850,000,000

Great Britain is the farmer's largest foreign customer, despite the fact that our purchases from her in the last year have greatly decreased. Notwithstanding the fact that we reduced our purchases of the United Kingdom nearly one-third during 1898 as compared with 1897, our sales to that country increased more than $50,000,000 and exceeded $500,000,000. Of the more than 200,000,000 bushels of corn which the farmers sent abroad during the year over 75,000,000 bushels went to the United Kingdom.

Wheat exports to the United Kingdom increased nearly 20 per cent, and formed 50 per cent of the total exports of wheat, while flour exports to the United Kingdom increased in a like proportion and formed more than 50 per cent of the total exports of that article. Cotton exports to the United Kinkdom increased over 40 per cent, and those of provision and other farm products likewise showed a marked increase.

Germany has also increased her purchases from the United States, despite the frequently expressed belief of the existence of adverse desires and regulations in that country. Her purchase of corn from us in 1898 increased 20 per cent, and her purchases of wheat and flour from us have more than doubled as compared with 1897. Of cotton our sales to Germany increased nearly 25 per cent. Oil cake and meal increased 50 per cent, while even in provisions there was also a marked increase, the sales of bacon increasing more than 33 per cent and those of hams more than 100 per cent. Lard exports to Germany increased more than 30,000,000 pounds, while exports of fresh pork to Germany in 1898 are more than five times those of 1897 or 1896.

COSTLY CHINA.

Mrs. Astor Pays $30,000 for a Single Set of Dishes.

New York, Jan. 23.—Mrs. William Astor has recently paid a fortune for some dishes. She has given in return for a mere set of china 30,000 American dollars. There are 212 pieces in all, each of which is worth almost its weight in gold. Mrs. Astor now owns the most costly china in America. The $30,000 set of china was originally intended for royalty.

The china was made in the famous Royal Meissen factory, in Dresden, and a sample was sent to Mrs. Astor when she was in Paris last March. The plate sent on approval so delighted New York's society leader that she ordered the china at once, with instructions to add the Astor crest and her own monogram.

Though the dishes reached America last summer, they have only been seen by a chosen few, the honored guests at Mrs. Astor's first formal dinner, given but a few weeks ago.

Mrs. Astor has added another servant to her already large retinue, a woman whose sole duty it is to care for these valuable dishes.

FROM CUBA.

BACK TAXES IN CUBA

Likely to Be a Cause of Serious Dispute.

Havana, Jan. 24.—The military administration states that its position regarding the Bank of Spain and the collection of taxes is still unchanged as no reply has been received from Washington concerning Governor General Brooke's recommendation as to the remission of taxes. These recommendations, it is understood, were very strong, being practically an announcement of what the military government proposes to do in the premises. It is assumed here plans are being matured in the United States for collecting taxes. Absolutely no official steps have been taken by the bank in the matter.

Jeremiah A. Miller, cashier of a prominent bank in Wheeling, W. Va., has purchased for a West Virginia syndicate the site of the ancient town of Cabanas in the province of Pinar del Rio. The syndicate purposes to dredge the port, to build warehouses and a railroad and make Cabanas an outlet for the products of Pinar del Rio so as to divert the trade from Havana.

The 16th Indiana regiment is erecting a monument 20 feet high in memory of their comrades who have perished in Cuba. The material is of coral rock. The whole cost will be about $2,000 and the monument will be dedicated next week.

TROUBLE BREWING

As Result of Order for Centralization of Customs Money.

Santiago de Cuba, Jan. 23.—The order of the United States military authorities in Havana directing the authorities of the Santiago military department not to expend a cent of the customs receipts without the permission of the governor general and the order directing that hereafter the bulk of the sanitary work shall be done without money pay and for rations merely, were given to the local press for publication Saturday, though received here last Thursday.

El Cubano, in commenting upon the instructions of the governor general says:

"The feeling is prevalent that the only course now is to retire to the mountains."

This is of course, an exaggeration, although the inference is that the people make just such threats.

As showing just how far the province has drifted backward since the first announcement that the customs were not to be freely expended for provincial improvements, the Santiago Heraldo reports that a band of men are committing wholesale depredations in the Mayari district where several people have been murdered and that another band in the Guantanamo district have burned all the cane prepared for pressing on the Isabel plantation.

"These outbreaks," says the Heraldo "are the first fruits of the money centralization system."

As yet the Mayari report has not been verified.

CUBAN COMMISSIONERS

Say They Have Secured Assurances that Native Army Will be Paid.

New York, Jan. 23.—A special from Washington says: The Cuban commissioners who have been in Washington for six weeks upon affairs connected with the plans for future government have completed their work and will soon sail for Havana. They will proceed to Santa Cruz and report to the assembly.

The commissioners express the greatest satisfaction and state that they have succeeded in gaining favorable action upon all their requests. One commissioner says that a certain amount would be advanced by the United States for the payment of the Cuban soldiers and that upon its receipt the army will be immediately disbanded. Just how much would be granted, or how much each soldier would receive, he would not say.

This amount will be secured by the revenues of the island over which the American government will have control until the debt is paid. The members of the commission were disinclined to discuss the success of their mission until their report has been submitted to the Cuban assembly.

FOOD FOR STARVING.

Washington, Jan. 20.—By direction of the secretary of war the general orders of the department have been amended so as to prescribe that the ration for issue to Cuban destitutes shall consist of eight ounces bacon or eight ounces tinned meat, 12 ounces flour or 16 ounces corn meal, as well as the following for every 100 rations: Six pounds of coffee (green), 10 pounds of sugar; two quarts of vinegar, four pounds salt, four ounces pepper, four ounces soap, six pounds rice.

CERVERA'S FLEET.

Norwegian Wrecking Company Examines the Spanish Warships.

Santiago de Cuba, Jan 18.—Representatives of a Norwegian wrecking company examined the wrecks of the Spanish war ships to see if it is possible to raise them. They think that the Colon might possibly be floated, but are doubtful in the case of the Almirante Oquendo.

The Merritt Chapman Wrecking company is making headway on the wreck of the Reina Mercedes.

Smallpox in Cuba.

Havana, Jan. 19.—An out-and-out panic exists in the 161st Indiana regiment, owing to the spread of smallpox. Men and officers are using every influence to bring about the regiment's recall. In the meantime, all who can secure sick leave are going home. Jacob Dexter, of Monticello, Ind., has died of smallpox, Alonzo Graham, of Madison, Ind., is dying of black smallpox. There are five other cases and seven suspects, all in the same regiment.

The court-martial in the case of Private Buckley, of the Second Louisiana, rendered a sealed verdict, which will be forwarded to Washington. It is known that Buckley has been found guilty, and unless President McKinley interferes, he will be shot.

Supreme Court for Cuba.

Havana, Jan. 18.—Governor General Brooke, in a day or two will create a supreme court for the island of Cuba. It will consist of a chief justice and six associate judges. It will be a court of last appeal, for the consideration of cases which formerly went to Madrid for decision.

THE DRINK HABIT

Is Ruining Many Natives of the Hawaiian Islands.

Boston, Jan. 23.—The American board of commissioners for foreign missions has just received an interesting report on the present condition of the Hawaiian islands.

The report is from Rev. J. Leadingham. After stating that intoxication is ruining scores and hundreds of the natives, Mr. Leadingham says:

"Heathenism also is a foe which Christianity must still encounter here. Besides the lingering remnants of Hawaiian heathenism is that which is imported from China and Japan. Shinto and Buddhist priests are active in the support of their faith among the Japanese laborers in some places on the islands."

On a recent trip to the island of Hawaii, Mr. Leadingham saw on one side of the road a building in front of which were some peculiarly-shaped banners attached to tall poles. A pathway leading up to the building had been cut through the steep bank by the roadside, and the banks on either side of this pathway were stuck full of short pieces of bamboo, attached to which were strips of paper covered with Japanese characters. The building was a Shinto shrine, and the strips of paper on the sides of the pathway were prayers. Here was real heathenism from Japan.

It is no uncommon sight to see a hack loaded with Chinamen, and having with them a nicely roasted pig, on the way to the cemetery to pay their homage to their dead ancestors.

A GOOD PRACTICE.

If You Want a Good Appetite and Perfect Digestion.

After each meal dissolve one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets in the mouth and, mingling with the food, they constitute a perfect digestive, absolutely safe for the most sensitive stomach.

They digest the food before IT HAS TIME TO FERMENT, thus preventing the formation of gas, and keeping the blood pure and free from the poisonous products of fermented, half digested food.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets make the complexion clear by keeping the blood pure.

They increase flesh by digesting flesh-forming foods.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is the only remedy designed especially for the cure of stomach troubles and nothing else.

One disease, one remedy, the successful physician of to-day is the specialist, the successful medicine is the medicine prepared especially for one disease.

A whole package taken at one time would not hurt you, but would simply be a waste of good material.

Over six thousand men and women in the state of Michigan alone have been cured of indigestion and dyspepsia by the use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Sold by all druggists at 50 cents per package.

Send for Free Book on stomach diseases to F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

LANDED AT LAST.

General Miller's Expedition Lands Near Iloilo.

New York, Jan. 21.—A special from Washington says: Gen. Miller's expedition has landed on Guimaras island, three miles from Iloilo, without opposition, Gen. Otis cables from Manila.

Landing was necessary because of the crowded condition of troops on the transports. Experience has proved that soldiers lose spirit and fighting qualities when confined long on board ship, so the war department asked Gen. Otis to ascertain if it was possible for Gen. Miller to land his expedition near Iloilo. He cabled that it was, and was then instructed to order a landing.

It was deemed inadvisable to have this expedition return to Manila without having landed, because it was feared the natives of Luzon would think the Filipinos at Iloilo had repulsed the Americans. The President's policy of pacification will be continued and no attempt to land at Iloilo will be made at present. The island on which the men have landed is healthy, and has an abundance of water.

ASTOR BATTERY

Returned to New York After Service in the Philippines.

New York, Jan. 23.—After an absence of more than seven months, the Astor battery arrived in New York yesterday. During their absence the men have traveled to and from the Philippine islands, and have seen active service against the Spaniards under General McArthur at Manila. Their loss from death was five—three dead in action and two from sickness.

Returned From Porto Rico.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 23.—The transport Port Victor arrived at Fort Monroe last evening from Porto Rico, and has aboard 138 sick soldiers from the army hospitals in that island. An attempt was made to land the sick troops, but on account of darkness the men were permitted to remain aboard the transport.

Sailed for Honolulu.

San Francisco, Jan. 21.—The United States dispatch boat Iroquois has sailed for Honolulu. The vessel carried a number of special dispatches, some for the battleship Oregon, due at the islands, and some that are supposed to relate to the sending of the Oregon to Samoa.

Shipped for Cuba.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 23.—The United States transport Manitoba sailed yesterday for Havana. She had on board six troops of the Seventh cavalry from Macon.

Iowa Troops Off for Cuba.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 19.—The transport Minnewaska sailed at 11 o'clock last night for Matanzas with the Third Iowa.

ALL WERE LOST.

Wreck of the Paul Jones Has Been Found.

Mobile, Ala., Jan. 21.—The government steamer Pansy touched at Biloxi, Miss., yesterday afternoon and reported finding on Breton Island, a part of the stern of the naphtha launch Paul Jones, also a yawl boat with bow smashed and other small articles from the launch. The condition of the wreckage tends to show that the naphtha tank blew up and tore the boat to pieces. The Pansy met the Maud with Jones and Taggart on board. The latter visited the wreckage and identified it as part of the Paul Jones.

No bodies were found. A party left Scranton in a light draft yacht and will visit every nook to the westward.

The launch had the following pleasure seekers on board:

Joseph Brinkman, Louisville.

Miss Florence Taggart, daughter of Mayor Taggart, Indianapolis.

Miss Margerie Woodland, daughter of George Woodland, vice president Prairie State bank, Chicago.

Col. Harry C. Yocum, St. Louis.

Miss Florence Yocum, his daughter.

The crew consisted of three men, whose names are unknown. The launch, which was owned by Lawrence Jones, a Louisville distiller, was loaned by him to Mr. Yocum, and left Louisville December 8 for a trip to Florida. She left New Orleans for Pensacola January 3. Since then nothing definite has been heard from her until to-day, although her loss has been rumored since last Saturday.

News confirming her loss has been brought by oyster fishermen who have known of it for more than a week. The launch exploded, they say, on or about January 6, near Bird Island, and everything goes to show that all on board were killed at once or drowned soon after.

The boat was operated by a gasoline engine, and it is now recalled that she met with several accidents from fire on her way down the river. It is regarded as certain that the engine exploded, but from what cause will probably never be known. The force was such that it not only blew off the pilot house, but split the yacht in two.

The men who brought this definite news are engaged in the oyster fisheries off the East Louisiana coast. Last Friday they visited Bird Island and found a lumber schooner ashore, also a piece of the yacht's mast on the island. The latter, they say, was split in half by an internal explosion. Then men boarded the yacht and explored her cabin, breaking open the trunks and taking from them a lot of fine female apparel and keys and whatever other property they discovered on board.

Although their discovery occurred a week ago, the men did not come to Venice, the nearest settlement until yesterday, when they had to do so to lay in a supply of provisions. In Venice they turned the keys over to a storekeeper, by whom these facts were made known, the keys bear a tag inscribed "Fletcher & Co., Indianapolis."

No bodies were seen by the men on or near Bird Island, but there is no hope of anyone having escaped from the wreck. The Paul Jones had two boats. One badly stove in was picked up by the Marie Louise of Mobile. The other was Paul Jones painted on her, was found by the Pansy off Biloxi.

FLOOD'S SECOND WIFE.

A Kansas City Girl Will be the Bride of the California Millionaire.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 23.—Miss Maud L. Fritz, of Kansas City, is to become the bride of James L. Flood, only son of the late James C. Flood, the famous California Bonanza King, who fell heir to one-third of his father's vast estate. Miss Fritz is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fritz, a local contractor, and is a sister of the first Mrs. Flood who died one year ago this month. The wedding will take place in Kansas City about February 8. The couple will, it is said, live in Mr. Flood's magnificent mansion on Nob Hill, in San Francisco.

IN TWO OCEANS.

Ships of the Navy Have Been About Evenly Divided.

New York, Jan. 24.—A dispatch from Washington says: As a result of the assignment of the battleships Iowa and Oregon to the Pacific and Asiatic stations respectively, and the decision to dispatch the cruiser Newark to the Pacific coast, the commissioned naval force of the United States is about equally divided between the two oceans. The assignment of the Newark to the Pacific is due to the necessity of having a cruiser on the Pacific coast to replace the Philadelphia, which will leave by Wednesday next for Samoa. Orders have been given to push the work on the Newark so that she may be ready to sail early in February.

Orders have been given under which the Nashville is being pushed to completion. It is stated that the department is actuated in this matter by a desire to maintain a strong force in Cuban waters as well as to have the ships at a point where they can start without delay for the far east should hostilities with the Filipinos occur.

THREE PEOPLE

Burned to Death On a Mississippi River Steamer.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 20.—Three bodies have been found in the debris of the burned steamer Ouachita which was destroyed by fire at an early hour yesterday morning. The bodies are charred and burned beyond all recognition but are believed to be the remains of Mr. and Mrs. Keck, enroute from Columbus, O., to Greenville, Miss., and Dr. Murray, of Vicksburg. All of the other passengers have been accounted for.

FOREIGN NEWS.

GREAT LABOR MEETING.

Convention of Union Leaders at Manchester, Eng.

London, Jan. 24.—There opened at Manchester to-day what is considered an epoch-making convention in the history of British trade unionism. It is to give its entire consideration to the most momentous question with which organized labor in the United Kingdom now has to deal, namely, a gigantic federation of all the trades. The employers have already settled the question for themselves by forming an employers' association and by appointing a parliamentary council, the duty of which is to watch the interests of the employers in matters of parliamentary legislation. Though their agreement has been but recently perfected, the employers have already made their federated energies felt in trade struggles which have ended disastrously to the employes. To form a huge federation of sufficient strength and influence to counteract the moves of the combination of employers is the object of the Manchester conference which is presided over by Mr. Samuel Woods, M. P., and in which almost every trade is represented. The necessity of a mammoth organization molded on the lines of the American Federation of Labor, yet with its many interests more closely knit together than is the case with that organization, is recognized among all classes of trade unionists. At the same time it is generally admitted that it will be a matter of the greatest difficulty to settle upon a satisfactory basis of amalgamation.

One of the first obstacles encountered is the great inequality of the units comprising the organized trades of the country. Some unions, such as the engineers and carpenters and joiners, are strong in numbers and in wealth, with a membership physically and intellectually superior. Others are weak in every sense of the word, and some are leading a mere tottering existence. In the light of these many difficulties it is the opinion of many conservative and experienced labor leaders that an effective general federation can not be accomplished at the present time, and that it can only be accomplished by educating and strengthening the various trades until they can be merged on a basis of general equality.

ABDICATION OF OSCAR.

Crown Prince Gustaf Becomes Ruler, Temporarily at Least.

Stockholm, Sweden, Jan. 24.—King Oscar of Sweden has abdicated the throne in favor of his son, the Crown Prince Gustaf.

While it is generally reported that the abdication is only temporary, those who are in a position to know of what they speak declare that he will never return to the throne.

King Oscar has made this movement on the urgent demand of his physician, who assured him that any further participation in the affairs of state might prove fatal.

The king has gone to Saltoja, Russia, where he hopes that the baths may, in a measure at least, restore his health

WASHINGTON

NICARAGUA CANAL BILL.

Provisions of the Measure Passed by the Senate.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The Nicaragua canal bill, as it passed Saturday, continues the name of the Maritime Canal company. It provides for the issuance of 1,000,000 shares of stock of $100 each. The canal company is required to call in all the stock issued except that held by the Nicaragua and Costo Rica governments. The company is also required to redeem and cancel all bonds and scrip heretofore issued by the company and to satisfy all cash liabilities. To enable the company to comply with this requirement treasury warrants to the amount of $5,000,000 are authorized, with a proviso to the effect that only so much of the amount shall be paid as shall be required to pay the actual cash value of the rights, privileges, franchises and property at the time of the payment, the value to be determined by commissioners to be appointed by the President.

This being done the secretary of the treasury is authorized to subscribe for 925,000 shares of the company's stock for the government of the United States. The present members of the board of directors are then to resign and a board of seven is to be appointed in their stead, consisting of five on behalf of the United States and one each on behalf of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. The directors on behalf of the United States are to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the senate. No two of them are to be residents of any one state and no person who has heretofore been interested in the canal company is to be appointed to this office. They are also prohibited from being interested in contracts on the canal. Each of the directors, except the president, to receive a salary of $5,000 per year and the president is to have $6,000. All traveling expenses are to be paid. Annual reports are required. There is a provision against declaring dividends except upon the net earnings. The company is authorized to contract for the completion of the canal within six years. The payments are restricted to $20,000,000 annually. The canal is to be large enough "for use of the largest seagoing vessels at a cost not to exceed the estimate of the engineers and not to exceed $115,000,000." This amount is made permanent appropriation for the work to be used as occasion may require. The bill gives the government a lien upon the property to secure the repayment of the moneys advanced, and the President is empowered to declare forfeiture of the property to the United States without the necessity of judicial or other ascertainment. Thereafter full title is to rest in the government of the United States. The President is authorized to suspend payments at any time. The President is also authorized to secure any change in or modification of the terms of the concessions either from the concessionaires or from Nicaragua and Costo Rica. In case of failure in such negotiation the President is also empowered to negotiate for another route across the isthmus. He is further requested to open negotiations for the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty or any other treaty found in existence and standing in the way of the construction of the canal.

The neutrality of the canal is guaranteed, but the right to protect it against the interruptions of business between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States is reserved.

DEBATE ON ARMY BILL

Will Be Opened in the House This Week.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The time of the House this week, excepting to-day, which has been set aside for consideration of District of Columbia business, will be devoted to the army reorganization bill. The consideration of this bill, which is regarded as pre-eminently the most important general measure to come before Congress at this session, has been delayed by the illness of Chairman Hull, of the military affairs committee. He has recovered sufficiently to pilot the measure, however, and the House has formally agreed to take up its consideration on Tuesday. The general debate, not including three night sessions, is to continue fifteen hours. This is as far as the agreement goes. It includes no provision for a final vote.

The debate promises to be both interesting and important, as it will raise all the questions involved in increasing our standing army to 100,000 men as proposed by the bill, together with our future policy relative to the territory acquired in the recent war with Spain. There exists a wide variety of opinions upon the proposition to increase the standing army. It has a strong majority of the Republicans behind it, and it comes into the House with the indorsement of the President's message practically as an administration measure. The Democrats and Populists are intensely hostile to the whole proposition, and intend to fight it to the last ditch. They will have some support from the Republican side. The opposition, however, do not desire to embarrass the government, and are willing to provide for a temporary increase in the army of 50,000 men in accordance with the provisions of the substitute bill offered by the minority of the committee. Or they are willing to recognize the continuance, temporarily, of the present war strength (62,000), anything, in fact, to prevent the creation of a permanent increase. In this they have the sympathy of many of the Republicans. The fate of the bill is in grave doubt. The statements made on the floor of the Senate to the effect that it was not the intention of the government to hold the Philippines permanently, although their authoritative character was denied, however, placed a weapon in the hands of the opponents of the measure who will use the statement that there is doubt as to the future of the Philippines as a strong argument against a permanent increase of the regular army. The bill may not be completed this week, as the order permits its consideration to be interrupted by appropriation bills and conference reports. One of these, the military academy, is on the calendar. The river and harbor bill will be reported to-day, and the naval bill probably before the end of the week.

PORTO RICO TARIFF.

As It is Fixed by United States Government.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The secretary of war has issued an amended customs tariff, prepared under the direction of the secretary of the treasury, to take effect February 1, in all ports and places in the island of Porto Rico and all other West Indian islands outside of Cuba under control of the United States.

The port of San Juan is designated as the chief customs port, and only registered vessels of the United States are to be used in trade between ports of the United States and Porto Rico, or between the various ports of Porto Rico. After stating that an entry charge of 20 cents a net ton is to be made against all vessels from outside of the United States or Porto Rico, the order gives the list of articles to be admitted duty free and the list upon which duty must be paid, together with the rate of duty.

After presenting in condensed form the value of the importations into Porto Rico during 1897, and showing how unjust the former Spanish tariff was, the report continues:

The amended tariff for Porto Rico has been framed on a revenue-yielding basis of 15 per cent, instead of 25 per cent, as in the case of the amended tariff of Cuba. By this it must not be inferred that all the schedules will be uniformly 15 per cent. The schedules relating to wool and manufactures of, silk and manufactures of, and musical instruments have been increased to 25 per cent, ad valorem. The rates of the liquor schedule will exceed 25 per cent., and is practically the same as in the Cuban schedule. An endeavor has been made to keep cotton and manufactures of below 15 per cent., only the finer grades at the higher rate, and all the coarser goods of general consumption have been placed at 10 per cent. ad valorem. The machinery to be used in extending transportation and advancing the industries of the island has been put at 15 per cent., or its equivalent. About 18 per cent. ad valorem has heretofore been collected on the imports of the metal schedule, and it is probable that the proposed rates will keep within this proportion.

The changes have all been dictated by the desire to make the revenue tariff less burdensome on articles of food than on articles which are consumed by those better able to pay. The general result will be a tariff not dissimilar to that of Jamaica, which averages about 12½ per cent. duty, but which is now undergoing revision by a commission and which tariff your commissioner was informed when in Kingston will average after the revision is completed about 16 2-3 per cent.

PHILIPPINE COMMISSION

Will Sail January 30th From Van Couver for the East.

Washington, Jan. 19.—President Schurman, of Cornell university, Professor Worcester, of Ann Arbor, and Col. Denby, the three members of the Philippine commission now in the United States, had a long conference with the President at the White House to-day. They will receive their commissions to-morrow, when Mr. Schurman will be formally designated as chairman and Mr. Edward W. Harden, of Chicago, as secretary. With the exception of Col. Denby, who will be unavoidably detained here about two weeks, the members, with a corps of clerks and stenographers, will leave New York next Tuesday for Van Couver where they will take the steamer Empress of Japan on the 30th instant, for Hong Kong.

Mr. Harden, of Chicago, who has been appointed secretary of the commission, served as a volunteer on board the McCulloch and participated in the memorable victory of May 1 at Manila. He is a newspaper man of ability, and while in the Philippines was appointed special commissioner of the United States to report upon the financial and industrial conditions of the islands. The report has been warmly commended by Secretary Gage, and his knowledge of Philippine affairs is responsible for the selection to his present important post.

THE STEAMSHIP BILL.

It Will Give a Great Impetus to the Merchant Marine.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The steamship subsidy bill, which is now attracting so much attention in congress and is likely to become a law, gives a bounty to all vessels engaged in the foreign trade, steam or sail, according to their tonnage and speed—1½ cents per gross ton for each hundred nautical miles, both outward and homeward bound, for the first 1,500 miles, and 1 cent for each 100 miles over that distance. Steam vessels are to receive bounties according to the tonnage and speed. Those over 1,500 tons making between 14 and 15 knots, 1 cent per ton per 100 miles sailed; those between 15 and 16 knots, 1 1-10 cents; those sailing 16 knots and over, 1 2-10 cents; vessels of over 3,000 tons, sailing between 17 and 18 knots, 1 4-10; between 18 and 19 knots, 1 6-10, and over 19 knots, 1 8-10; vessels of over 3,000 tons sailing 20 knots are to have 2 cents a ton, and 21 knots and more, 2 3-10. Steam vessels over 3,000 tons sailing more than 22 knots and less than 23, 2 7-10 cents per ton, and over 22 knots, 3 2-10. All vessels accepting this bounty are required to carry the mails of the United States without further compensation.

It is estimated that this bill, if it becomes a law, will encourage the construction of a fleet of large vessels of which this country will be proud, and that the cost to the government for the first year will be about $2,000,000. Of course, the future increase depends upon the number of new vessels that are built. Last year the foreign mail service cost the government $1,563,784, and the estimate for the next year is $2,154,000. Of this sum $1,165,765 was paid under the subsidy law. The Venezuela steamship line received $81,228, the Mexican service $130,104, the Cuban service $78,646, the transatlantic service $757,320, and other lines $123,569. The Cunard company received $17,177, the North German Lloyd $88,029, the White Star $53,535, the Hamburg-American $27,431, and the French line $31,679. The Pacific Mail company does not receive a subsidy because it prefers to accept the ordinary sea pay, which is 2 cents a letter. The cost of the trans-Pacific mail to Australia, Hawaii, Japan and China was $179,545.

The United States stands sixth in the list of nations paying subsidies to steamships. France comes first and pays $8,028,525; Great Britain second, $3,534,475; Germany third, $3,127,000, which will be increased over a million dollars during the next year for the extension of the service to China and Japan; Italy, fourth, $1,853,695, and Spain comes close on the heels of the United States with $1,044,556. Austria, Russia, the Netherlands, the Australian colonies, British India and other countries also pay large subsidies for the encouragement of their mercantile marine.

AGAINST ROBERTS.

Bill to Prohibit a Polygamist From Entering Congress.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Representative Clarke, of Iowa, to-day introduced a bill "providing that no polygamist shall be a senator or representative." It provides that "no person living in or practicing polygamy shall be eligible to be a member of either house of the Congress of the United States nor shall such person be permitted to hold a seat therein." It is further provided that the evidence of polygamy shall be of whatever nature that establishes the fact. Another provision makes the act take immediate effect.

BY BREVET.

Governor Roosevelt Will Be Honored by Title of Brigadier-General.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Governor Theodore Roosevelt will receive the brevet of brigadier general of volunteers for brave and meritorious conduct in the Santiago campaign, provided the senate confirms his nomination by the President. Governor Roosevelt's name is included in a long list of nearly 500 officers who have been recommended by the army brevet board for brevet appointments for distinguished conduct in Cuba.

THE RELIEF

Will Be Sent to Manila to Care for American Soldiers.

Washington, Jan. 20.—At the instance of Surgeon General Sternberg, Secretary Alger to-day ordered the hospital ship Relief to Manila to serve there as a hospital ship and also as an ambulance ship for the conveyance of sick and wounded soldiers from Manila to Nagasaki, or even to San Francisco. The Relief is now at New York, and will go by way of the Suez canal. Surgeon Bradley will go with the ship and some additional medical officers will be detailed to go out to the Philippines with her.

Spanish Prisoners.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The War department has issued an invitation for bids from responsible shipping concerns of all nations for transportation of the Spanish prisoners in the Philippines from Manila to Spain. The treaty requires the United States to transport these prisoners home without awaiting ratification of the peace treaty. Bids will be opened February 1, in New York and San Francisco.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Makes the food more delicious and wholesome

ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

LAWS FOR HAWAII.

Favorable Report On the Bill in the House.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The majority report on the Hawaiian bill was filed yesterday by Chairman Knox, of the house committee on territories, with the bill as changed in committee. The changes have been already pointed out, and do not vary the essential features of the measure submitted by the Hawaiian commission. The report states that in substance a territorial form of government is established for Hawaii, so nearly like that of the other territories as the location of the islands, their physical condition and the character of the people will permit. An amendment is proposed making all laws of the Hawaiian legislature subject to the approval or disapproval of the United States congress.

As to property qualification, as retained in the bill, with some modification, the report says:

"The question of a property qualification of any kind for a voter or member of the senate is an important one, and is calculated to excite antagonism in the United States, but such a qualification has long prevailed in Hawaii, and, as far as can be ascertained, meets the approval of the people. The requirement has gradually grown less prohibitive, and that now proposed is the most liberal, and the commissioners, in their report, look for its final extinction, but regard the present time as not favorable to the experiment. It insures, as far as possible, a conservative body in the legislative body of Hawaii at an important period of its history. It permits a large number of native Hawaiians to vote for members of the upper house, and the objections to this provision are largely met by the removal of all property qualifications for membership of the lower house or for electors of members of that body. Thus a large popular house is created, all classes are represented, and each house will be a check upon the other."

The report also speaks of the favorable features of abolishing race distinction in juries and the extension of the English language in Hawaii.

As to the extension of the customs and revenue laws of the United States to Hawaii, the report says that a special bill now pending covers the case, and if this is not passed the general bill will be amended to cover the case.

PERSONNEL BILL PASSED.

Efforts of Naval Officers Finally Met With Success.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The house yesterday passed the naval personnel bill without division on the final passage, thus accomplishing what the officers of the navy have striven for during more than a decade. By its provisions the line and engineer corps are welded into an amalgamated line, staff officers are given positive rank, but their command is limited to their own corps, and a system of voluntary and compulsory retirement on three-quarters pay as of the next higher rank of forty officers a year is established, which is designed to remove the congestion in the lower rank at forty-five. The bill also practically equalizes their pay with that of army officers.

Three important amendments were adopted. One creates a judge advocate's corps, another abolishes prize money, and a third provides for the retirement on three-quarters pay of enlisted men and petty offices in the navy after thirty years' service. But the most important change in the bill as reported was the adoption, after a hard fight, of a substitute for the organization of the marine corps, by which the corps is to consist of 6,000 enlisted men and petty officers with general officers and staff. This will increase the marine corps by 1,300 men and increase the cost of its maintenance $1,500,000. Several unimportant bills were passed by unanimous consent before the personnel bill was taken up.

OHIO CENTENNIAL BILL

Will be Introduced in the House This Week.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The Cincinnati Enquirer correspondence says:

"The bill authorizing an appropriation of $500,000 for the Ohio Centennial and Northwestern Exposition will be introduced in the house next Wednesday or Thursday. Representatives Southard, Shattuc and McDowell have agreed to present the bill framed by the Ohio Centennial commission and which was handed them last week, practically without any important changes. The three representatives, however, agreed to strike out all reference to having exhibits from Cuba, Porto Rico or the Philippines. The bill will be referred to the appropriation committee, and then Messrs. Southard, Shattuc and McDowell will bend their energies toward having it favorably reported to the house as soon as possible."

ANCIENT DOCUMENT.

Government to Undertake the Delivering of Spanish Prisoners.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The plans of the war department for the repatriation of Spanish soldiers in the Philippines have been completed, and the quartermaster-general has invited proposals for the transportation of about 16,000 officers and men from Manila to Cadiz. Cabin accommodations are to be supplied to the officers, and third-class or steerage accommodations having suitable galley arrangements conforming to United States army requirements as to space and ventilation, must be provided for the ordinary soldiers. The United States government undertakes to deliver the prisoners on board the contractors' vessels at Manila or such other port in the Philippines as may be designated for their embarkation. The price per capita for transportation of officers and men and for their subsistence and delivering them on shore at the Spanish port designated, must be specified and the bids accompanied by a guaranty that the prisoners will be comfortably cared for while on the journey.

PATENT OFFICE.

Summary of the Work of the Year—Effect of the War.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Commissioner of Patents Buell last night furnished the following statement in summing up the patent office calendar for the year 1898 and the condition of work.

During the year applications were received for 33,913 patents; 22,207 patents were granted, including designs. The total receipts were $1,137,734, against total expenditures of $1,136,196.

The war is shown to have had a depressing effect on inventions while it lasted.

GEN. HASTINGS

To Be Made Director of Business of American Republics.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Gen. Russell Hastings, formerly of Ohio, but now living at Northampton, Mass., has been chosen for appointment as director of the bureau of American republic to succeed the late Joseph Smith. General Hastings during the civil war was colonel of the President's regiment.

Judge Grosscup.

Washington, Jan. 18.—The President to-day nominated Peter S. Grosscup, of Illinois, to be United States circuit judge for the seventh judicial circuit.

WON'T RECOGNIZE AGONCILLO.

The Filipino Will Stay in Washington and Watch Events.

Washington, Jan. 24.—Secretary Alger said that while he would be pleased to hear that the Filipinos had liberated the Spanish prisoners held by them, he had no official information to confirm the statement to that effect coming from Madrid. General Otis has been cabled for accurate information respecting the number of these prisoners, but so far he has not given the information. The officials here are not moved by the reported threat of the Philippine junta in London to withdraw Agoncillo and his followers from Washington, if they are not speedily named officially. While Agoncillo has been well treated informally, he has not been recognized by the government, and it may be stated positively that he will not be.

The Filipino representatives here are not prepared at this time to state when their efforts to obtain recognition for the Aguinaldo government are to cease. This is a question they say, which will depend entirely on circumstances that may develop as a result of their attempts to be diplomatically received here and the action of the senate on the peace treaty.

OHIO CONGRESSMAN

Will Make a Great Fight for Centennial Bill.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The capital correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune writes his paper as follows:

"Ohio congressmen are hopeful that they will be able to get the centennial bill through at this session. Representative Shattuc and the other members who have the measure in direct charge are doing missionary work among the members representing the other states which were carved out of the original Northwest Territory—that is, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

"By reason of the fact that the Ohio centennial is a celebration of the beginning of the organic life of the Northwest Territory itself, it is believed those members will have a lively personal interest in the pending legislation. Members from Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Nebraska and states adjacent thereto also are being interested in the measure, because in those states there have recently been held, or are about to be held, similar celebrations, for which government aid was sought and obtained by the assistance of Ohio members. The house committee on rules will be asked to permit the report of the bill and to facilitate its immediate consideration."

IN THE HOUSE.

Mr. Payne Succeeds Dingley as the Leader.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The speaker of the house has announced the appointment of Mr. Payne (Rep. N. Y.) to the chairmanship of the ways and means, to succeed the late Mr. Dingley; Mr. Richardson (Dem. Tenn.) to the vacancies on ways and means and rules created by the retirement of Gov. McMillen, of Tennessee, and Mr. Crumpacker (Rep. Ind.) on the committee on census.

Effort for Deignan.

Washington, Jan. 20.—Senator Gear offered a joint resolution in the senate appointing Oscar W. Deignan, of Iowa, a cadet at the United States naval academy. Deignan was one of the Merrimac heroes.

KEELY A FRAUD.

His Workshop Torn to Pieces and Astounding Discoveries Made.

Philadelphia, Jan. 19.—The Press today publishes an article covering, with illustrations, over a page in space giving the details of an investigation made by the paper of the dismantled workshop of the late John W. Keely which investigation the Press contends clearly proves the mysterious Keely motor to have been a delusion and deception, and its alleged mysterious forces were the result of trickery. In the investigation, which has been in progress over a week, the flooring of the workshop was taken up and a brick partition was removed. The Press was assisted in the work by Prof. Carl Hering, a consulting engineer of wide experience.

Prof. Arthur Goodspeed, at present professor of physic of the University of Pennsylvania; Prof. Lightner Witmer, professor of experimental psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. M. G. Miller, who has had special training in exploration and research in the way of mound digging and accordingly superintended all the digging operations. Clarence B. Moore, son of Mrs. Bloomfield Moore, was an interested spectator. The statements which are substantiated by signed statements of the named scientists are to the effect that tubing was found concealed in the brick and under the floor of the laboratory. This, it is claimed, laid here the possibilities of deception as the tubing is of the kind calculated to stand high pressure and could have been used in connection with the great steel sphere found last week in the laboratory, which experts intimate was used as a reservoir for compressed air or compressed gases and the tubing could thus form an agency for the forces that moved the motor in the exhibition room.

The contention of Mr. Keely and his friends for many years has been that no tubing of any kind was needed to work his machine. The views of Mr. Hering and Prof. Goodspeed are that the presence of the tubing and sphere indicates the use of normal forces and possible deception on the part of Keely. In this view Clarence Moore concurs and Prof. Witner feels that the possibility of trickery confirms the diagnosis that most physchologists make as to the delusive of the Keely mystery.

TO CARRY DON HOME.

Charter From King Charles II Presented in Court in Cleveland.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 24.—In the United States court yesterday, in the trial of the case of the city of Cleveland against the railroads to regain possession of the lake front, the famous charter that was given to the colony of Connecticut by Charles II. in 1662, the original of which was concealed in the historic charter oak on Wyllis Hill, in Hartford, from 1687 until 1689, was admitted as evidence, after being vigorously objected to by the attorneys for the railroads.

Judge Hammond is hearing the case. The charter of Charles II. granted the inhabitants of Connecticut the unexplored territory west of the western boundary of Pennsylvania.

Fourth Ohio Out.

Columbus, O., Jan. 19.—The Fourth Ohio volunteers were paid off here to-day by Majors Guild and Thrift, of the United States paymasters' department, and mustered out of service. It required $120,000 to pay the troops. A precedent is established which is expected to prevent trouble when the Second, Sixth, Ninth and Tenth Ohio volunteers are mustered out. The claim of the state against the government for expenses in raising troops will be fought over later.

The Fourth Ohio saw service and was under fire in Porto Rico.

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W. H. PEBKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.

RHEUMATISM.

April 10, 1897.

Dr. Radway & Co.: I have been a sufferer from rheumatism for more than six months. I could not raise my hands to my head or put my hands behind me, or even take off my own shirt. Before I had finished three-fourths of a bottle of Radway's Ready Relief I could use my arms as well as ever. You can see why I have such great faith in your Ready Relief. Yours truly, W. C. BAKER, Engineer at A. Monsleone's boot and shoe factory, 180 Julia street, New Orleans, La.

Radway's Ready Relief

For the Cure of Pain, Congestion and Inflammations. Price 50 cts. a bottle. All Druggists.

MINING AGREEMENT.

Rate Adopted by Joint Committee of Miners and Operators.

Pittsburg, Jan. 24.—The coal mining rate for the four large competing states of the country was agreed to by the joint scale committee of operators and miners to-day and all that now remains is its adoption by the interstate convention. This will probably be done before night. The sub-scale committee met this morning to consider the recommendation of the joint committee as to the differences in Illinois.

The operators of that state made the work of the committee comparatively easy by receding from their demands for a double standard and agreeing to the arbitration of the machine differential price.

The report was then adopted by the joint committee.

The adoption of this report will prevent a national strike, and any trouble that may occur during the year will be in Hocking Valley, Ohio, and at mines where the operators have refused to be a party to the contract.

Under the new agreement the rates in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania will be the same as at present. For run of mine coal the rate will be 42 66-100 cents a ton; inch and a quarter screen coal, 66 cents a ton; drivers and outside labor will receive the same wages as at present, and eight hours will constitute a day's work.

In Illinois the run of mine system will prevail. The machine differential is to be arbitrated. The operators want a flat differential of 10 cents a ton between pick and machine mining and the miners want it reduced to 7 cents. The operators make the differential 25 per cent of the pick mine rate in favor of the machine mined coal.

This rate will be fixed, however, by a board of arbitration which will be composed of the presidents of the miners' state organizations in Indiana, Ohio and the Pittsburg district and one operator from each state. These six are to select the seventh man, who shall not be a resident of the state of Illinois.

BETROTHED

Are Ensign Wat Cluverius and Miss Nannie Sampson.

New York, Jan. 23.—Admiral Wm. T. Sampson's second daughter, Miss Hannah Walker Sampson, or Miss Nannie Sampson, as she is better known in Washington society, is betrothed to Ensign Wat Tyler Cluverius, watch officer on the Solace, which will sail for Manila within a week. The engagement has just been announced.

Miss Sampson has been in society for two seasons. She is a beautiful girl, tall and graceful, and a decided brunette. She lives with her mother in Glen Ridge, N. J., but spends much of her time in Washington and Annapolis. Many naval officers know her as Miss Nannie, and are proud of her.

Kinpling Coming Over.

Liverpool, Jan. 2 .—Among the passengers who will sail for New York on Wednesday on board the White Star Line steamer Majestic are Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling.

Markets and Crops.

TRADE CONDITIONS

Mills Have More Orders Than They Can Handle.

New York, Jan. 21.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says:

"A new year rarely opens brilliantly. Too many traders have to wait for the demand, which in winter comes slowly. The industries resist fairly well the tendency to unlimited expansion which some have to meet. Speculation in products is gaining but little, while stocks are doing an enormous volume of business results in continually higher prices.

"The volume of payments through clearing houses is extraordinary—42.7 per cent larger than last year, 90.9 per cent larger than in 1897, and 51.5 per cent larger than in 1892, even the transaction outside of New York showing a gain over 1892 of 44.6 per cent. Speculation at New York, therefore, cannot be the main cause of gain. Difficulties between holders of material and manufacturers continue to hinder in some industries, and in some may prove seriously embarrassing, but the activity is, on the whole, unsurpassed hitherto, and the volume of traffic is beyond all expectations.

"In some branches, consumption is running beyond the producing capacity, but in others it is hindered by doubts about the future supplies and prices of materials.

"The woolen manufacture is still waiting, with only moderate demand for goods as yet. The production is large, and considerably larger than in recent years, but does not nearly approach the capacity of the mills. Sales of wools have been 16,495,800 pounds, against 22,322,970 last year, and prices of domestic fleece are lower, with the present demand running largely to quarter and half-blood and Australian cross-breed. But there is not enough change in material or in demand for goods to encourage heavy buying by manufacturers as yet. The cotton manufacturer has a large demand for goods, but raw cotton has so rapidly advanced that possibly buyers apprehend a fall, and there is a hesitation in the purchase of staples.

"With receipts of cotton far ahead of last year's, from the greatest crop then ever raised, there is now apprehension that good qualities may fall short before the year closes. Much cotton remains in the fields yet unpicked, on account of bad weather, and is deteriorating in quality. The silk manufacturer, knowing many threats of its interference and disputes about duties, seems to be making steady progress.

"The iron and steel manufacture leads all others in the volume of new business. While production is much the largest ever known, many of the works are withdrawing all quotations or naming prohibitory prices in order to check orders which they cannot fill for months to come, and do not want to accept at current prices. The number of such works is rapidly increasing, as the heavy demand for materials covers many months' capacity. Bessemer pig is a shade higher, at $10.90, with sales of 25,000 tons at Pittsburg, and there is something like a famine in grey forge, with sales at $9.75, although one sale at $9.95 in the valley is reported. While finished products are in very great demand, especially for car building and special works at the west, the week shows no advance in prices, excepting 50 cents per ton in steel rails at the east.

"These conditions favor the continuance of the extraordinary foreign trade which resulted in the greater balance in favor of this country ever known. January this year indicates a similar excess of exports over imports, and while wheat exports have increased every month since last August, they have been in three weeks 15,078,077 bushels, flour included, from both coasts, against 11,899,952 bushels last year. Corn exports have been quite up to last year's unprecedented record, amounting to 9,270,189 for three weeks of January last year, although prices have declined about half a cent. The contest between speculators in wheat at the west and at the east has held prices fairly steady, with an advance of only an eighth for the week Cotton fell to six cents, but afterward rose to 6.12, without a satisfactory reason in trading, but because of apprehension that supplies of good quality might fall short.

"Failures for the week have been 249 in the United States, against 374 last year, and 32 in Canada, against 53 last year."

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Jan. 24, 1899.

The markets for grain during the past week have been more active than for some time past. The opinion among dealers seems to be that the time has come in the prosperity of the country, when there should be activity in grain as well as in stocks, iron and its products and general merchandise. Wheat has advanced 1½c for cash and 2c for May with a weak in corn, the markets are a strong fraction off for cash but are up 1⅜ for May delivery. Oats are up a cent, but clover seed again shows a decline. The European demand has not been brisk, but it is expected to improve.

Condition of the Grain Trade at the Close To-Day.

Wheat started ½c higher to-day under good country orders and higher cables from Liverpool. Receipts in the Northwest, 587 cars, against 323 corresponding day last year. After trade had proceeded a few minutes there was a period of profit taking which caused ease. It was reported that Argentina was offering wheat freely. After a short time of weakness prices began to improve and there was much activity. That traders are anxious for speculation is evident from the large transactions. Shorts covered actively, and the markets became very firm. Toward the close there was a little less strength, yet a little buying pressure would have started the markets up. There is no disposition manifested to put values up to a sharply high point, but it is apparent that there is more confidence than has been shown for some time past.

Prices of wheat to-day:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
May.				
Toledo	74⅝	75¼	74⅜	75
Chicago	72½	73⅝	72⅜	73⅝
New York	76¾	77⅝	76⅝	77¼
St. Louis	76⅜	77¼	76⅜	77
Minneapolis	69½	70⅝	69½	70⅜

At Chicago January wheat sold for 70c; July, 70c; high, 71c; low, 69¾c; close, 70¾c. At New York July wheat opened at 74¾c and closed at 75¾c asked. At St. Louis July wheat opened at 68⅞c bid, rose to 69¾c bid, and closed at 69¼c bid.

Total clearances wheat and flour, 468,000 bushels; corn, 354,000.

Paris wheat closed steady to 5 centimes higher; flour, 10@25c higher.

Antwerp wheat 12½c higher.

Primary receipts of wheat, 636,000 bushels; same time last year, 315,000. Shipments, 217,000 bushels; same time last year, 149,000. Receipts of corn, 425,000 bushels; same time last year, 571,000. Shipments, 406,000 bushels; same time last year, 498,000.

Bradstreet's shows: Wheat, decrease, 50,000 bushels; corn, increase, 563,000; oats, decrease, 53,000 bushels.

J. M. Cronenberg received the following: Berlin, 1½c and Buda Pesth 1½c higher on wheat.

Liverpool wheat closed: March, ⅝d higher.

Beerbohm, of January 18, reports on crops: Austria Pest reports of January 7 advise continued open weather, although snow had fallen in some of the higher districts. Hungary's net reports of wheat and flour, first four months this season were: From August 4 to November 30, 1,560,000 quarters, against 4,248,000 quarters last season. Practically the whole of these exports go into Austria. Roumania, wintry weather with snow protecting young plant; wheat exports from Roumania are now very small.

Oats at Chicago for January, 25¾; May, 28¼ open and high, and 27⅞ low and close; July, 26½; close, 26¾.

Pork at Chicago for January, $10.20; May, $10.42; high, $10.52; low, $10.40; close, $10.42.

Lard at Chicago for January, $5.67; May, $5.92; high, $5.95; low, $5.87; close, $5.87.

Corn, on strength in wheat and higher cables, started steadier, but the attention given wheat left corn without support, and as a result the markets closed a trifle weak. At Chicago January corn sold at 35¾c; May, 38c; high, 38¼c; low, 37¾c; and close, 37¾c; July, 38¾c; close, 38¼c. At New York May corn opened at 43¼c, fell to 42¾c, rose to 43¼c and closed at 42⅝c bid.

The Close at Toledo—Wheat Higher.

Cash wheat ¾c up, and May 1c higher at the Toledo Exchange than at the close yesterday. Trade active and prices a little firm on last sales. Special No. 2 soft red wheat, 73c, 73½c, then 72½c asked; No. 3 soft red, 70c.

May wheat, 74¾c, 75¼c, and to close 75c bid.

Corn—Fairly Active, Lower.

Corn was fairly active, but prices were about ½c off. No. 2 mixed corn, 35¼c; No. 3 corn, 34½c, then 35c; No. 2 May, 38¾ 38¼c; No. 2 yellow and 2 white, 38c; No. 3 yellow and 3 white, 35½c.

Oats dull, steady and ⅛c advance; No. 2 mixed, 23c; No. 2 mixed May, 29¼c; No. 2 white, 28c.

Rye dull, but 1c better. No. 2, 57c bid.

Clover seed active, closing easy at a decline of 12½c for future delivery. Prime old cash, $3.80; prime medium, $4.25. January seed, $4.30 bid; February, $4.27½, worth less at the close; March, $4.30; close, $4.25 bid; No. 2 seed, $3.40@3.42½. Receipts, 150 bags; shipments, 490.

P. N. Quale reports trade quiet and prices: No. 2 soft red wheat, 70c; white wheat, 69c; corn, 30c; oats, 28c for white; rye, 50c.

Toledo Produce Market.

Trade fair, with few prices to note. Butter in good supply and steady. Eggs in a little better stock, but no alteration. Cheese, fair market, steady. Vegetables hold at even prices and ample supply. Poultry in fair request at prices given. Fruits, good apples especially wanted.

Butter—Finest creamery, 17@19c; Elgin, 19c; Ohio and Michigan, 17c; dairy butter, best quality, 12@13c.

Eggs—Fresh receipts, per dozen, 21@22c; storage, 19c.

Cheese—Finest September make, 10@10½c; October, 10@10c.

Vegetables—Cabbages, pound, 1c; rutabagas, bbl., $1; onions, bbl., $1.50@1.75; turnips, bu., 25c; parsnips, bu., 35c; squashes, ton, $6.00; carrots, bu., 25c; beets, bu., 25c; potatoes, bu., 20@30c; sweet potatoes, Jerseys, bbl., $2.00; bushel, 75c; lettuce, lb., 8c; beans, bu., $1.20; celery, dozen stalks, 15@30c.

Poultry, Dressed—Chickens, pound, 8@9c; turkeys, 11@12c; ducks, 9@10c; geese, 10c.

Fruits—Apples, best, bbl., $3.00@3.25; per bu., $1.05@1.10; ordinary apples, bu., 80@90c; cranberries, bu., $2.00@2.25; lemons, box, $4.50; oranges, box, $3.75@4.25; grapes, basket, 12@20c.

Sausages—Meats—Hams, best sugar cured heavy, per lb., 8@8½c; light hams, per lb., 10c; mess pork, new, per bbl., $10.00; short mess, $12.00; short clear, $11.00; breakfast bacon, 11c; Thuringer bologna sausages, lb., 7c; fresh sausage, lb., 7c.

Dressed Meats—Hogs, per 100 lbs., $4.00@4.25; sheep, $6.00; lambs, $8.00; calves, $8.00@9.00; beef, $5.00@6.00.

Lard—No. 1 kettle rendered, 6c.

Hay—Car lots of timothy, choice, ton, $8.00@9.00; No. 1 hay, ton, $8; No. 2 hay, $6.00@7.00.

Straw—Wheat straw, car lots, per ton, $4.50; oat straw, $5.00; bright rye, $5.00.

Hides—Green, light and cows, per lb., 5½c; No. 2's and bulls, 5c; heavy steers, 5½c; No. 2's, 4½c; green calf, large 11½c; No. 2's, 9½c; kip, No. 1's, 8½@9c; No. 2's, 7½c. Cured hides No. 1's, 9½@9½c; No. 2's, 8½c; No. 1 calf, 12c; No. 2's, 10½c; sheep pelts, shearlings and lambs, 15@60c; pelts, 25@50c.

Furs—Muskrat skins, each, 5@13c; mink, 25c@$1.25; raccoon, 10@75c; skunk, 10@ 30c; deer skins, green, per lb., 10@12c; dry, 15@18c; fox skins, each, gray, 75c; red, $1.25@1.50.

Rock Salt—Ton, $7.50; pork packing salt, 200-lb. bags, 85c; Eastern salt, bbl., $1.00.

Linseed Oil—Raw, per gallon, 33c; boiled, 36c.

Beeswax—Per pound, 20@25c.

Feed, per ton—Bran, $14; middlings, $13; chop feed, $12@15, according to quality.

Timothy Seed—$1.50@1.75, according to quality.

Tallow—Per pound, $@3½c.

Wool—Coarse and medium, unwashed, 15@18c; washed, 20@22c; fine unwashed, 12@14c; washed, 18@18c.

Turpentine—Per gallon, 45c, when sold by barrel.

Grain and Produce.

Chicago, Jan. 24—Close: Wheat—Jan., 70c; May, 73¼c; July, 70¾@70¾c. Corn—Jan., 35½c; May, 37¾c; July, 38¼c. Oats—Jan., 25¾c; May, 27½c; July, 24½@24¾c. Pork—Jan., $10.17½; May, $10.42½; Sept., $10.57½. Lard—Jan., $5.67½; May, $5.97½; July, $6.00. Sept., $6.10. Ribs—Jan., $5.00; May, $5.15@5.17½; July, $5.27½; Sept., $5.37½. Flax—Cash Northwest, $1.19; Southwest, $1.15½; May